

THE THING II

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. OUTPOST 31 - DAWN

The last of the fires have died out. Debris blows across the ground. Mac stirs awake from his frozen slumber. Something echoes in the distance. A helicopter is coming. Mac leans over to wake up Childs.

MAC

Wake up, Childs. Someone's coming.

Mac looks over to find that Childs is gone. The bottle of J&B is resting against a barrel. Mac grabs the bottle and takes a swig. Mac sees several fresh foot prints in the snow.

MAC (CONT'D)

(to self)

You're a fool, Childs. You won't get far out there.

The helicopter closes in on the camp. Mac gets up slowly and lurches toward the camp as the chopper lands. Mac covers himself with his blanket to keep warm.

The chopper door swings open. Five armed men wearing Arctic gear barrel out and surround Mac. Another man slowly exits the chopper and approaches Mac. He's a stocky man wearing the clover leaves of a US Army Major.

MAC (CONT'D)

You don't have to tell me you're in charge. I can tell.

COLE

Name's Major Cole. I hope you don't mind me asking you a couple of questions.

MAC

Sure I don't mind you asking, but you aren't going to like the answers.

Cole looks around the sight of the destroyed camp. Mac smiles with disinterest.

COLE

Maybe you'd like to explain all of this? What the hell happened here...Sorry I didn't get your name.

MAC

R.J. Macready, US Army pilot. I was stationed here a few months ago.

COLE

Well at least I'm not dealing with a civilian. Let's get you back to base camp. I think we've got some things to talk about.

Mac pauses.

MAC

You guys aren't going anywhere. Neither am I, for that matter.

COLE

What in the hell are trying to say? You bet you're ass we are and you're coming too, like it or not.

MAC

This place isn't safe, Major. You need to burn every piece of this outpost. Well, what's left that I didn't burn. There's a possibility of contamination.

COLE

Contamination? And when were you meaning to tell me that?

MAC

I was getting around to it. I've got a slight case of brain freeze right now and this bottle of J&B here can only do so much.

Mac shakes the bottle at Cole and takes a swig. Cole eyes Mac for a second.

COLE

Garrett, get over here!

Garrett, a young NCO, comes running over to Cole. Sergeant Garrett is a capable medic. One of the few in Cole's group that didn't joined just for the GI bill.

GARRETT

Yes, sir.

COLE

See to Mr Macready here. Make sure he doesn't have hypothermia or any frozen vitals. Get him safe on board. We'll be ready for evac in a few minutes, after we do a quick search for survivors.

Cole glances at Mac.

COLE (CONT'D)

How about it, Mac? Are we going find any around here or did you kill all of them?

MAC

Not that I care anymore but no, I didn't kill any that were...human.

Garrett is checking Mac for any wounds. He notices Mac's comment.

GARRETT

Human? What do you mean?

COLE

Let me ask the questions. Just get Mac here back to the damn chopper.

MAC

You aren't taking me anywhere. I'm quite happy right here thanks.

COLE

I'm not going to ask again. It's too cold out here to argue. What's it going to be?

Mac answers by knocking back another shot.

COLE (CONT'D)

I thought so. Harris!

A burly black trooper runs over to Cole. Private Harris is about six foot four and all muscle.

HARRIS

Yes, sir.

COLE

This survivor here is being stubborn. It seems he doesn't want to go back with us in the chopper. Make him see different, Harris.

HARRIS

(grins)

I'd be happy to.

Harris lunges at Mac. A hefty right hook comes down on Mac's shoulder. Mac leans to the left and avoids the blow. The bottle of J&B comes crashing down on Harris's head. Glass breaks, scotch spews everywhere, and a tough soldier falls.

Mac is ready to pounce on Harris when he feels a sharp sting in his shoulder. Mac looks down and sees a tranquilizer dart sticking out of his shoulder. Mac looks up to see Cole smiling at him, cradling a tranquilizer gun. Things go dark for Mac.

COLE

Sorry to have to do this to you, but we're on a short timeline here. I hope you understand.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - INFIRMARY

Mac opens his eyes slowly. Bright fluorescent lights nearly blind him. Mac holds his head and tries to shake off the drugs. He sits up and looks around. He notices several maps and a station charter sheet on the wall.

It reads: US OUTPOST#16--MEDICAL INVOICE #4562. Mac shakes his head in disgust. He gets up and walks over to the wall. Mac grabs the sheet and crumples it up in his fist.

MAC

(to self)

You stupid sons of bitches! It's all over now. I hope you brought a case of beer for the damn party.

COLE

We've got plenty to go around. I hope you'll be in shape enough to join that party.

Mac turns to see Cole standing in the doorway. Mac tosses the paper on the ground and begins pointing at Cole.

MAC

You've sealed our fates, you ignorant bastard! When that thing spreads across the continent and infects the whole fucking world, don't come blaming me!

COLE

What are you talking about, that contamination, maybe? Well when we get you back stateside you're going to a head shrinker ASAP.

MAC

I'm not crazy!

COLE

I sent three of my men back to that outpost of yours. They have been going over every inch of that ground and they haven't spotted any contaminants or biological elements.

MAC

Nothing?

COLE

Just a few bloody and twisted corpses and a hell of a lot of burned debris.

MAC

Corpses! Those are the contaminants, you idiot!

COLE

Our team has all the latest biological assessment equipment and they haven't gotten any data to even suggest possible infections or disease.

MAC

Of course they didn't because the disease is a foreign organism from outer space! It isn't going to show up on their precious little gizmos.

COLE

Well they're almost through with the search. They still have to check out the kennels and the generator room. Most everything else is a clean sweep.

Mac shakes his head. He falls back onto the bed and mumbles half to himself.

MAC

The generator room.

COLE

I'll let you rest. I'm expecting you to fill me in on the details later. Get some sleep, Macready. You're going to need it.

Cole leaves and closes the door. Mac lays back and closes his eyes.

MAC

(to self)

You got that right.

INT. OUTPOST 31 - GENERATOR ROOM

The three men at the outpost are Logan, Taylor, and Sergeant Anderson. Taylor and Logan are armed with rifles and Anderson carries an evidence case. All three men carry flashlights.

The generator room is hazy and filled with huge chunks of smoking wood and metal. Part of the upper floor framework is destroyed and has caved in to the room. Only part of the generator room is accessible. The three men tread carefully through the wreckage.

ANDERSON

Be careful in here guys. This room looks really unstable.

TAYLOR

What the hell happened in here?

LOGAN

Looks like someone set off a very large bomb.

ANDERSON

Look at the far wall there.

All three men shine their flashlights at the far corner. Half of the wall is blown clear off, allowing cold air from the surface up above to blow in.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

That's most likely from thermite or seismic charges. I could be wrong though. At the very least it was a hefty dose of TNT along with a few barrels of kerosene. Most stations like this one come with backup fuel tanks for the choppers and tractors.

Taylor spots several burned out barrel remnants under a cracked piece of wall. The barrel is still smoking.

TAYLOR

Look there! That looks like it might be one of those fuel barrels.

ANDERSON

All right spread out. Do a thorough search and watch your step. Check around those barrels for any fuses or igniters.

The men spread out and search the room. Logan heads down the corridor where Nauls had disappeared. He shines his flashlight down the dark corridor and enters it. Off to the right side is a large storage bin. Logan eyes it and notices some blood on the side. He peers in and suddenly jumps back in shock.

LOGAN

Hey, guys! Get over here!

Anderson and Taylor come running. Logan motions for them to look inside the bin.

Inside the bin is the mutated body of Nauls. The bin had protected it from the explosion.

All three men look on with disgust at the corpse. Naul's face is the only part that resembles him. The rest of his body is a twisted set of spikes and bloody protrusions. Naul's face is set in a permanent expression of horror and fear.

TAYLOR

Jesus! Who is that?

LOGAN

Don't you mean "what" is that?

ANDERSON

Just bag it and tag it. We'll let our science grad deal with it once we get back. Let's finish up here. This place is really starting to freak me out.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - DINING ROOM

Macready is sitting alone at a dining table chowing down on a hot meal. Mac looks up and sees Harris glaring at him from across the room. Mac smiles at him. Cole walks in with another man and they sit down at the table with him.

COLE

Glad you have an appetite, Mac. You're doing a lot better than any of us had hoped.

Mac glances at the man sitting next to Cole.

MAC

And who might you be?

COLE

This is Dr Lang. He's with the geological survey team. He's the one member of this outpost that didn't leave when we told them we were arriving with you.

MAC

And why is that?

LANG

Well because of the contamination issues. Most of the other civilian personnel left right away. I stayed because well...I'm a scientist. I'm curious by nature.

MAC

You know what curiosity did to the cat.

COLE

Enough jokes. The good doctor and I would like you do some Q&A with us. It's very simple stuff really. We ask you questions and you give us honest answers. Doesn't that sound fun?

MAC

I'll do it on one condition. Got a drink?

COLE

If you mean alcohol then the answer is no. Even if they carry some here, we certainly wouldn't give you any.

Mac frowns and gobbles up the last of his eggs.

MAC

That's what I thought. Well, fellas, roll the damn dice.

COLE

First of all what happened at outpost 31? Why all the destruction? If you wanted to kill someone all you had to do was stab them. It seems a little...excessive.

MAC

I'm not a murderer. I'll tell you my story and in the end you'll see why I'm telling the truth.

COLE

I'm dying to hear this one.

Lang is fixed on Mac. He's almost giddy with interest and excitement.

LANG

Yes so am I. Please go on, Mr Macready.

MAC

We visited a Norwegian camp not too far from our outpost. When we got there we found the place bombed and burned out. Just like you guys found mine the other day. Well we found something there. Outside the main entrance we found a body. Only this body didn't look right. It wasn't human. Not entirely. We took the body back with us. Later that night we stored the body in a storage room. It wasn't dead. It came back to life and imitated one of our men.

LANG

Imitated? What do you mean...imitated?

MAC

The Norwegians had apparently discovered an alien life form in a remote area. I guess the thing they brought back with them wasn't all that dead either. This alien uses some kind of cellular imitation to absorb other life forms. It can look like anything it wants. It's a shape shifter if you like.

COLE

And you guys brought it back to your own camp? That was smart.

MAC

We were in the same boat you guys are now. Only we didn't have me to help dish out useful information. You guys are blowing this big time. That thing is going to get out and start imitating camps all over this continent. And somehow, someway it's going to get off this frozen popsicle and then things are going to get real interesting real quick.

COLE

Let's say you're telling the truth. If it is true then how do we stop it? How do we know who's human and who's not. Is there a test of some sort?

MAC

The only way we could come up with was a blood test. I'm no scientist.

(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

I thought that the thing functioned at its core in a pure way. Its basic desire to survive existed also on a cellular level. Its individual cells want to survive as well and will react to hazardous conditions.

COLE

Like what, fire?

Mac stares intensely for a moment at Cole. Finally Cole gets Mac's meaning.

COLE (CONT'D)

Okay. The explosion. I get your point.

LANG

So how do we administer this blood test?

MAC

I'm sure there's a better way but my way was just take a sample of someone's blood and put a hot needle to it. I discovered that one of our men was infected that way.

LANG

What happened?

MAC

Things got...ugly. He started flipping out and changing shape. He killed the radio operator Windows and that's when I blasted him. He ran outside and tried to get away so I tossed a stick of TNT down his pants.

(grins)

He danced for me.

Mac smiles and takes a gulp of water. Lang is transfixed like a kid hearing a ghost story from his grandpa.

COLE

Well since my men and this outpost is at possible risk I'll buy your story...for now. My three man team will be arriving back in the morning. If what you say is true then perhaps we should conduct one of these tests on them.

MAC

That's fine but if you do then you better be armed with flame units

(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

because once this creature is discovered it gets really violent.

COLE

Well we only two flame units with our team. And those only have a few minutes worth of fuel. We weren't expecting to have a BBQ here.

MAC

Then you had better jerry rig some units up. Guns will stun it but they won't kill it. You need fire and lots of it.

COLE

We'll work something out. I'd like you to write a report. Since you have some free time now I don't see why you wouldn't oblige me.

MAC

I'll take care of it.

COLE

I'd like it for you to be as concise and detailed as possible. Something tells me you gave us the watered down version.

Cole gets up and leaves. Lang stays at the table with Mac. Lang lights up a cigarette. Lang is young and impressionable. Mac takes to the kid, even if he sees the kid as a disaster waiting to happen.

MAC

So why did you stay, kid?

LANG

We never have anything happen around here. When they told me that something had gone down at your outpost I wanted to stay and see what it was.

MAC

How did they know?

LANG

There are thermal sensors all over the continent. We have them set up to detect underground seismic activity and possible shifts in the glacial shelf. They just happened to pick up a huge thermal readout at the time of your...explosion.

MAC

Makes sense, I guess.

LANG

So these creatures, where do they come from? Did you find a ship?

MAC

Yeah, but I couldn't remember where it was. I don't know where it's from. I don't really care. The only thing I know is that it killed most of my crew. Those other men were my friends. Only two of us survived.

LANG

But I thought you were the only one.

MAC

There was another man called Childs. He and I lived. When Cole's team arrived I woke up and Childs was gone. I didn't tell them Childs had disappeared.

LANG

Why not?

MAC

If they knew that a possible murder suspect was wandering about the Antarctic they would have sent in the cavalry and every Green Beret to search for him. At that point it would be out of my hands and they still wouldn't find him. He's out there right now and he's either already dead from exposure or he's not human. Either way, I'm going to take care of Childs myself. Just as soon as I get healed up and can get away from this bunch of jarheads.

LANG

How are you going to do that?

MAC

You guys have tractors at this camp? Choppers?

LANG

Sure we've got two tractors and a chopper. We also have three snowmobiles. Those are really fun! One time we rode them over this steep--

MAC

(Interrupting)

Would you help me out here? I can't trust these army guys. Guys like that are why I got shipped out to this iceberg in the first place.

LANG

Sure I'll help you. What can I do?

MAC

I have a feeling things are going to get interesting around here when those three soldiers get back. Have my stuff hidden and ready for me by the time they get back. Can you get one of the tractors ready for me? Fill it with whatever fuel, weapons, and thermite you can.

LANG

I'll take care of it. I'll load up tractor two. It'll be the orange painted one nearest to the garage entrance.

MAC

Thanks, kid. I appreciate it.

Lang shakes hands with Mac and leaves. Mac sits back and chugs some more water. He looks at the glass and scowls.

MAC (CONT'D)

(to self)

What I wouldn't do for a scotch right now.

INT. OUTPOST 31 - TENT - NIGHT

Anderson and his men have set up a camp site outside the main entrance. Anderson and Logan are inside the tent warming up some soup with a cooking unit. Taylor unzips the tent door and enters. He sits down and begins warming his hands over the cooking unit.

TAYLOR

It's too dark for a flight now.

ANDERSON

Yeah, we'll head back in the morning. I didn't think we'd get back tonight, anyways.

LOGAN

Should I radio base camp, sir?

ANDERSON

That would be a good idea. The Major would pretty pissed if we didn't.

Logan grabs his radio set from his backpack. He turns in on and adjusts the frequency.

LOGAN

Base Camp one, this is mobile unit three reporting in.

VOICE

(in radio)
Go ahead, unit three.

LOGAN

It's too dark now to return. We'll fly back at first light. Over.

VOICE

(in radio)
Roger that, unit three. What is your mission status?

LOGAN

All sectors have been searched and cleared. One body found. We've bagged it and it's on board the chopper.

VOICE

(in radio)
Confirmed. Get some rest and we'll see you in the morning. Out.

LOGAN

Roger that. See you guys soon. Out.

Logan puts up his radio. He grabs some soup from the pan.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Should we check anything else out in the morning before we go back?

ANDERSON

No, we've checked this place out as well as anyone could. The federal people will do a better job when they get here. We've done our job.

TAYLOR

I'm going to go do one last perimeter check if you don't mind, sir.

ANDERSON

Okay, Taylor. You take first watch. Have Logan relieve you at 0300 hours.

(MORE)

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

That way you'll be rested to fly in
the morning.

TAYLOR

Yes, sir.

Taylor grabs some crackers from his mess kit and exits the tent. Logan looks at the cracker bag and sees that Taylor took almost all of them.

LOGAN

You took all the damn crackers, you
prick!

EXT. OUTPOST 31 - NIGHT

Taylor makes a perimeter check around the camp site. He heads around the side of the helicopter. As he walks along its side he hears something: a scratching coming from inside the chopper.

He walks up to the side and looks in. Inside the body bag can clearly be seen. It's moving slightly. Taylor swings the door to the chopper open.

INT. HELICOPTER

Taylor steps inside and gently pokes the bag with his hand.

TAYLOR

Hello? Are you alive? Can you speak?
Hello?

CUT AWAY to exterior of the helicopter in the darkness.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - RADIO ROOM

Cole walks in the room. Garrett is just hanging up the radio set. Cole takes a seat next to Garrett.

COLE

What's their status?

GARRETT

It's too dark now for any flying.

COLE

Well I hope they get their asses
back quick in the morning. I just
got a weather update from McMurdo.
That storm isn't going to get any
better. Strong straight line winds
and lots more snow coming in tonight.

GARRETT

Fabulous.

COLE
So did they find anything?

GARRETT
One body. No more survivors.

COLE
I wasn't betting on that.

GARRETT
So what do you plan on doing with
Macready?

COLE
I won't place him under arrest, not
yet, anyway. I'll wait to do that
when we get back to McMurdo. I don't
want him trying to go AWOL on us.

GARRETT
So you're going to just let him be?

COLE
I've got Harris watching him. Wherever
Mac goes, Harris will go too. And if
he does anything stupid I'll have
Harris detain him.

GARRETT
Should I stay with the radio then?

COLE
(nods)
McMurdo might call and want to order
a pizza. You never know.

Garrett laughs. Cole gets up to leave. As he gets to the
door he looks around then back at Garrett.

COLE (CONT'D)
I want you to keep this room locked
at all times, whether you're in here
or not. I don't want Mac or that
science officer in here under any
conditions.

GARRETT
Yes, sir.

Cole leaves the radio room. Garrett gets up and closes the
door tight and locks it.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - DINING ROOM

Mac is at the table with a pen and paper. He's writing down
his version of events at outpost 31. Lang comes and sits
down with him.

LANG

How's the report going?

MAC

Fine, though I never thought I'd be writing down what I am. It just happened the other day.

LANG

Well I've got the stuff you asked for. Tractor two is ready for you. It's unlocked and all the stuff you wanted is in the cabin.

MAC

Thanks. Do I have a room to sleep in tonight? I don't like the idea of sleeping in the infirmary on a hard cot.

LANG

Cole said something about rooming you up in one of the bunks.

MAC

I guess it doesn't matter much. I don't plan on sticking around long enough to enjoy the hospitality.

Mac looks up and eyes Harris. Harris is sitting at a table across the room. Harris is flipping through a Guns and Ammo magazine. Harris looks up and sees Mac staring at him. Harris gives Mac a scowl. Mac winks at him.

MAC (CONT'D)

Sorry about the shiner earlier. No hard feelings.

HARRIS

It's all in a days work. That doesn't mean I wouldn't gladly return the favor.

MAC

I'm sure you wouldn't.

Mac goes back to his report. Lang glances down at the report, trying to read what he can.

LANG

So what does this thing look like?

MAC

Its like I said, it can look like anything it wants. It's pretty nasty. Lots of slimy tendrils and spikes.

(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

I guess it kind of looks like something your dog might have thrown up.

Lang makes a sour face.

LANG

That doesn't sound good. Well when did you...

Mac motions for him to stop talking. He hears something. Chirping.

MAC

Ssshhhh!!! What's that noise?

LANG

Oh, that's our bird pens. We keep several birds here. We use them for when we have to dig underground. They're good to use in case we run into sulphur or methane gas. If we hit gas then the birds will die first.

Mac stares down the hall. He goes back to writing his report.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - MAC'S ROOM

Mac is in the room the team prepared for him. Mac looks around and sees a TV, a stereo, and a chess set. Mac looks at the chess set and smiles.

Mac crashes down on the bed. Before he can get any time to himself Cole enters the room. Cole has Mac's report in his hands.

COLE

Nice report there, Mac. I hate to say it, but this isn't the last time you'll have to explain this story. The people at McMurdo will want to hear it first hand as well.

MAC

I figured that.

COLE

You know, Mac, even though I've heard your story I still don't trust you.

MAC

I don't trust anybody.

COLE

No charges are going to be filed against you right now. But that might change. Try and get some rest tonight and don't do anything stupid.

MAC

I'm too tired to do anything other than sleep right now.

COLE

Good. I'll see you in the morning then.

MAC

Right.

Cole leaves. Mac pauses for a second and waits to make sure no one is close.

Mac gets up and goes over to a desk. He opens the top drawer and looks around. Anything that he might use as a weapon has been taken out. All he finds is a few pens, a notepad, and some paper clips. Mac grabs one of the paper clips and closes the drawer.

He walks over to the corner where a heating unit is against the wall. Mac bends the paper clip until one end is sticking up. Mac jabs the paper clip into his palm. Blood pools up in his hand. He squeezes his hand over the heating unit. A few drops of blood drip down.

Before the blood hits we CUT TO...

EXT. OUTPOST 31 - DAWN

Anderson and his men are prepping the chopper. Anderson makes one last look around the outpost. He motions for Logan to get on board. Anderson and Logan get in and slam the chopper door shut.

INT. HELICOPTER

Anderson takes the passenger seat up front with Taylor. Logan sits in back with the body bag. Logan eyes the bag as he buckles himself in.

ANDERSON

You buckled in, Logan? Okay, let's get the hell out of here. Take her up, Taylor.

EXT. OUTPOST 31 - DAWN

The chopper flies off into the distance and disappears in the sky.

A strong wind suddenly blows across the camp. Foot steps are heard.

A well bundled up man appears from behind a destroyed part of the main building. He walks around the camp and looks up into the sky. The man looks down so we can see his face. It's Childs.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Cole is sitting at a table examining a set of charts and maps. Lang is sitting on a couch reading a comic book. Garrett walks into the room.

GARRETT

I just got off the radio with Anderson. They'll be here in about an hour or so.

COLE

Good. Now get back to the radio room in case McMurdo calls.

GARRETT

Yes, sir.

Garrett leaves. Lang looks up from his comic book.

LANG

Do you really buy Mac's story?

COLE

I don't know, Lang. It doesn't make much sense. The events I mean, not his story. He could be telling the truth, as hard as that may be to swallow.

LANG

How are you going to put all this to your superiors?

COLE

I just run a search and rescue team, Doctor. Let the feds scratch their heads over this one.

LANG

Do you think Macready might try and escape?

COLE

I'm banking on it. And if he does then I'll be ready to hunt his ass down. He won't get far if he does. Macready might be a desperate man.

(MORE)

COLE (CONT'D)

If he is then that alone makes him dangerous.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - MAC'S ROOM

Mac is on the bed wrapping his injured hand. He gets up and softly walks across the room. Harris is outside the door, reading his magazine.

Mac looks around the room and sees a staple gun on the desk. He grabs the stapler from the desk and walks back over to the door.

MAC

Hey, Harris, I cut my hand. I need you to get me a wrapping for it.

HARRIS

Open the door and show me your hand then. I want to see it.

Mac opens the door a bit and puts his injured hand through the door. Harris grabs his rifle and smacks the butt of it against Mac's hand, pinning it against the door. Harris laughs.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

Now we're even. Let me see how bad it is. Maybe I'll get you something for it, maybe not.

Harris opens the door and slowly walks in. As soon as he walks through the doorway, Mac slams the stapler upside his head. Harris falls down and struggles to get up. Mac hits him in the head again. Harris falls back down unconscious.

Mac tosses the stapler and grabs the blankets off the bed and ties up Harris with them. He walks over to the door and peeks through the doorway. The hall is empty. Mac grabs his coat off the bed and exits the room.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - GARAGE

Mac has made his way to the tractor garage. He sees the orange tractor parked in the middle of the garage. He walks over to it and opens the door. He looks in and sees some equipment in the cabin seat.

He jumps up on the tractor. He's about to get in when he hears a gun cock. He spins around to see Cole, Garrett, and Lang standing by the garage door. Cole is smiling and smoking a cigar.

Mac jumps down from the tractor.

COLE

You didn't think I was that gullible did you, Mac? Garrett, take Mac under custody. I'm detaining you, Mac. You're not under arrest but you're in my custody and that means you do what I say, when I say.

Garrett walks behind Mac and places him in handcuffs.

MAC

If I'm not under arrest then what are the cuffs for?

COLE

It's a security measure. You never know what might happen out here in these remote places. People can go down right looney.

Mac scowls at Cole.

COLE (CONT'D)

Why did you trust Lang to do all this for you? I thought you didn't trust anyone.

MAC

I didn't have any other choice. I thought if there was one man here I who could help me, it would be him.

COLE

You thought wrong, Mac. Lang here knows who's holding the cards. He's not about to trust some renegade.

Lang looks at Mac with apologetic eyes.

LANG

I'm sorry, Mac. Cole has been onto you from the start.

MAC

Don't worry, Lang. I don't blame you for any of this. Actually, I blame Cole for most of this bullshit but there's nothing else we can do.

COLE

Enough. Garrett, take Mac back to his bunk and drug him. Make sure he's out cold. I want him in submission until we get back to McMurdo.

GARRETT

Yes, sir.

Garrett lugs Mac away and they head back inside.

Cole starts to follow. Lang stops him.

LANG

This is a bad call, Cole. We may need him awake for when the team gets back. What if something happens?

COLE

Then we'll deal with it. I'm not going to let him interfere with this mission anymore.

LANG

You're in charge here, Cole, but I still think it's a bad move. We may need him.

COLE

(annoyed)

If we need him then we'll wake him up. You don't need to worry about it. Go back to reading your comic books and leave this work to us.

Cole follows after Garrett and Mac. Lang stays in the garage for a moment. Suddenly he hears a sound in the distance getting louder. The helicopter is returning.

EXT. OUTPOST 16 - DAY

The helicopter lands and its engines are cut off. Logan and Anderson exit the chopper and Logan opens the chopper door. Taylor comes around and they both pull out the body bag and follow Anderson inside.

Cole is at the door to greet them. Cole looks at the body bag as they enter.

COLE

Welcome back, guys.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - ENTRANCE

The men all throw off their heavy winter gear.

COLE

Put that body in the infirmary. We'll take a look at it later. Anderson, come with me to the rec room.

ANDERSON

Yes, sir.

Logan and Taylor carry the body to the infirmary. Anderson shakes off his heavy overcoat and follows Cole.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Anderson plops down on the couch. Lang is standing in the rec room doorway. Cole is at the table. Cole offers coffee to the men. Anderson grabs a cup from the table. Anderson sips at his coffee as Cole speaks.

COLE

So how did the search go?

ANDERSON

We didn't find anything to prove that the explosion was set by anyone on purpose. Although it highly suggests that it was. The feds will have to do a better search when they start their investigation.

COLE

Good work. That's all out of our hands, anyway. Where did you find the body?

ANDERSON

In a storage container inside the generator room, or rather what's left of it.

COLE

Did anything strike you odd about the body?

Anderson looks at Cole strangely.

ANDERSON

Uh, yeah it did. I'm sure you'll agree when you get a look at it. How did you know?

COLE

Mac's been filling us in on some things. He wrote a pretty wild report. Take a look at it.

Cole grabs the report from the table and tosses it to Anderson. Anderson flips through it. His expression goes from amusement, to curiosity, to concern.

ANDERSON

Do you think this is real? I mean, is this possible?

COLE

I doubt it. However, it doesn't cost us anything to be cautious. I can buy some of it. Well, except for the parts about aliens from outer space. I think our friend Macready has gone section eight.

ANDERSON

What about this blood test?

COLE

It's probably just one of his mad fantasies but we might try it. I doubt anything will happen. If anything it'll just do more to prove that his sanity is questionable.

ANDERSON

So who do we test?

COLE

You of course. After all you, Logan, and Taylor were the three men who spent the most time there. We'll test the three of you. If you guys aren't infected then I'm sure none of us are.

ANDERSON

So what do we do? How do we do this test?

COLE

Go get Taylor and Logan. We'll do it in here.

LANG

I'll get them.

Lang heads off to get the other men. Anderson and Cole spend a short moment staring at each other. Cole gets up from the table and grabs several plastic coffee cups. He tears off the tops so that just the bottoms remain intact.

Cole places the cup bottoms on the table and retrieves his combat knife from his belt. Anderson looks on helplessly. Cole looks at the knife, then at Anderson and smiles.

COLE

Why do you look so nervous, Anderson? What are you worried about?

ANDERSON

Are you sure this is a good idea?

COLE

Don't worry about it. A few minutes from now we'll all know for certain that Macready is just as crazy as we already think he is.

ANDERSON

How will we know if someone is infected?

Cole takes a look at the cups and his knife. He just shrugs his shoulders.

COLE

I have no idea.

Lang returns with Taylor and Logan. Harris comes in with Garrett. Cole looks up at everyone.

COLE (CONT'D)

Good, you brought everyone. We might as well do this and get it over with. I feel silly enough as it is doing this. Everyone take a seat.

The men disperse across the room and take seats in chairs or on the couch with Anderson. Cole walks across the room and grabs two shotguns and a flame unit. He tosses the shotguns to Taylor and Logan, and drops the flame unit at the feet of Harris.

COLE (CONT'D)

We're going to do a little test, a blood test to be specific. It's probably nothing, but that Macready fellow said that if someone is contaminated with this "virus" then a blood test will let us know. Speaking of Macready, how is he, Garrett?

GARRETT

He's out cold. I knocked him out with a healthy dose of morphine, so he won't bother anyone for a while.

COLE

Good. Now I'm going to need you all to give a sample of your blood. I'd use a syringe but I don't want risk mixing the blood.

Cole grabs the cup bottoms from the table and passes them around.

COLE (CONT'D)

Take out your knives and make a small cut. Don't kill yourselves now. Just make a small incision on the finger or hand. Pour some blood into the cup bottoms and then hand them back to me.

The men cut themselves, but Anderson seems hesitant. Cole gives him a stern look and Anderson finally relents. Everyone lets their blood drain into the cups. They all hand them back to Cole one by one. Cole places his own cup on the table with the others.

COLE (CONT'D)

Taylor, Logan, arm your shotguns.
Harris put on that flame unit.

Cole dries off his knife and holsters it. He grabs some steel wire from the table that he has prepared. He holds the lighter over the wire and warms it up. The wire begins glowing red hot.

COLE (CONT'D)

Harris, you keep an eye on everyone.
Keep yourself spaced away from us
with that thing. We'll do me first I
guess.

The men all look on with suspense and concern. Cole dips the wire in his cup.

Nothing happens. The wire sizzles harmlessly in the blood. Cole sighs.

COLE (CONT'D)

Well that was easy. I guess that
means I'm okay.

ANDERSON

Who's next?

COLE

You.

Cole grabs Anderson's cup and warms up the wire. He places the wire in the cup.

Nothing.

Anderson sinks back into the couch. He sighs as well.

COLE (CONT'D)

Now it's your turn, Lang.

Lang looks at the men gravely. Cole places the wire in Lang's cup.

Nothing.

COLE (CONT'D)

Now you, Logan.

Cole places the wire in Logan's cup.

Nothing.

Everyone breathes deeply. Logan smiles and sits back in his chair.

LOGAN

I knew it.

Everyone feels kind of silly about it. Cole smiles at the men.

COLE

I don't know what Mac was all worried about. I think he should go back and rethink his idea about this test.

Cole grabs Garrett's cup. He places the wire in Garrett's cup.

Nothing.

Cole snatches up Taylor's cup. He quickly places the wire in the last cup.

SCREECH!!!

The cup spins out of Cole's hand and the blood pours up and flies toward the ceiling. The blood takes hold on the ceiling and swims around, trying to find a way out of the room.

All the men are gazing at the ceiling and are so enthralled with the blood that they momentarily forget about Taylor who is changing shape on the couch.

Taylor lurches off the couch and emits a loud scream. Cole looks on in horror. Anderson screams and Lang runs away. Harris and Logan are too shocked to move. Taylor's arms break open, revealing spiked claws. His head splits open and hundreds of tiny, foot long tendrils burst out.

Taylor races toward Garrett, who is blocking the outside door. Garrett reaches for his pistol. Taylor swings out his claw arm and brings it down on Garrett's elbow, snapping his arm off from the forearm. Garrett screams in pain.

Taylor jumps over the wounded Garrett and races toward the rear entrance door. Taylor smashes through the door and heads off into the cold night.

Garrett is slumped over on the ground holding his severed arm, which is bleeding everywhere. All the men are in complete shock and fear. Cole looks up and sees the blood pooling together on the ceiling.

COLE (CONT'D)

Torch that blood now, Harris!

Harris shakes off the fear and aims his flamer at the ceiling. He turns on the nozzle and sets loose a brief stream fire at the ceiling. The blood boils and melts away. Faint screeches and whines can be heard from it.

Logan races for a fire extinguisher and puts out the fire.

COLE (CONT'D)

Logan, see to Garrett right now and get that bleeding stopped!

Logan pulls Garrett up and he carries Garrett off to the infirmary. Cole looks around the room in disbelief.

COLE (CONT'D)

Is everyone else okay?

The men nod their heads silently.

COLE (CONT'D)

Let me think for a minute. Anderson, you and Harris block up that door. We have to barricade this place up fast. I don't want that thing getting back in here.

Harris has to pull Anderson off the couch. Anderson reluctantly joins Harris. They both race off to the supply closet to get wood and nails. Harris comes back and pulls up a huge cabinet. He places it over the hole where the door used to be.

Cole sits down and tries to gather his thoughts. Lang reappears from the hallway and sits down with Cole.

LANG

I guess Macready's test worked.

COLE

Yes, I think you're right.

LANG

We've got to do something, Cole. What the hell do we do now? Should we contact McMurdo?

COLE

No!

(MORE)

COLE (CONT'D)

If Mac's right about that thing then we can't let anyone else in here. We'll handle this ourselves...somehow.

LANG

What do you want me to do?

COLE

Help Logan take care of Garrett. After that help Anderson and Harris barricade the place up.

LANG

Then what?

COLE

I don't know! Let me think for a goddamn minute! That's too far for me to see. We'll have to go after that thing eventually, as much as it pains me to think of doing that.

Lang looks around the still smoking room. He slowly gets up and heads to the infirmary. Cole sits in utter shock at the table.

LATER

Lang enters the room and sits down at the table next to Cole. Cole is smoking and trying to compose himself.

LANG

We nailed everything down pretty good. That thing may still get in though. We need to be careful about getting too close to the doors or windows. Garret is passed out in the med station. Logan is watching him. We should test Garrett in a little bit.

Cole just nods.

LANG (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

COLE

I didn't think he was telling the truth. I guess I should have had him there. Maybe Mac would have known what to do.

LANG

You did all right.

COLE

Wake him up, Lang. I'm just a rescue team leader. I don't know how to deal with this. Get Mac in here.

LANG

It might be hard to wake him. He's drugged pretty heavily.

Lang walks off to get Mac. Cole stares off into space.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - MAC'S ROOM

Lang enters. Harris follows after him and stands in the doorway. Lang kneels down and shakes Mac gently. Mac doesn't budge. Lang pulls out a packet of smelling salt from his pocket and waves the packet under Mac's nose.

Mac slowly opens his eyes. He reacts to the salts and pulls away.

LANG

Mac, wake up! Something has happened. We need you. Do you understand me, Mac? Just nod your head if you do.

Mac tries to shake his head. It's a feeble attempt.

LANG (CONT'D)

I know this is hard on you, Mac, But you need to come with us. Harris, let's get him up.

Harris enters and helps Lang pull Mac out of bed. They carry Mac out of the room.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Harris and Lang enter the room dragging Mac along with them. They plop him down on the couch. Mac falls like a brick. Mac raises one arm to his head and cradles it.

MAC

I feel like I've got a hundred hangovers all at once.

LANG

I'm sure you'll feel like that for a while. Try not to move around too much. You may get sick.

Mac closes his eyes and speaks.

MAC

Where's Cole?

COLE

I'm here, Mac. I'm glad you're at least awake.

MAC

Lang said something happened.

COLE

We tried that little blood test of yours.

Mac grins.

MAC

I can guess what happened. Who was it?

COLE

Taylor. He was one of the men that was at your camp.

MAC

That figures.

COLE

We'll need to test you when you come to your senses. I'm sorry for doing that to you. I didn't feel like I had a choice.

MAC

It doesn't bother me much. I've already had one bad time too many with those blood tests.

COLE

I think I should tell you that we found something at the outpost.

Mac attempts to open his eyes and face Cole. He squints at the light in the room.

MAC

What did you find?

COLE

They found a body in the generator room. It looks like a black man. His body was pretty disfigured, just like you described.

MAC

My money is on Nauls. It could be Childs but I doubt it. Did you burn it?

COLE

No.

Mac opens his eyes.

MAC

Where is it?

COLE

We have it bagged up in the infirmary.

MAC

You what?!

Mac tries to get up on his own but falters and falls over the side of the couch and rolls onto the floor. Lang helps him back onto the couch.

MAC (CONT'D)

You stupid son of a bitch! You have got to burn those things! They're not dead yet!

COLE

That seems to be my problem, Mac. Believe me I want to. However, my orders are to recover and return with any evidence found at outpost 31. I consider that body the most important evidence I have.

Mac closes his eyes and shakes his head.

MAC

Knock me back out please. I don't want to stick around for this.

COLE

Sorry, Mac, orders are orders. And we need you awake to help us.

MAC

Why?

COLE

One of those things is out there.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - MAC'S ROOM

Mac is in his room getting dressed. He's still quite groggy from the drugs. He plops another boot on. Lang walks in.

LANG

Are you feeling better?

MAC

I'll manage.

LANG

Do you want to see the body?

MAC

Not really, but I guess I'm going to see it one way or the other. Lead the way.

Lang leads Mac out of the room.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - INFIRMARY

Mac walks in and sees Cole and Logan standing over a table. Garrett is on the table next to it asleep. Mac approaches cautiously. Cole opens the zipper to the bag. He folds the covers back revealing the body of Nauls.

MAC

Nauls. I wondered what happened to him. He just disappeared.

Cole stares at Mac.

COLE

The last thing I want to do is take that back with me to McMurdo.

MAC

Then burn it and tell them you didn't find anything.

COLE

I wish I could. However, we radioed McMurdo as soon as we got word that the men found it. I didn't know. I'm sorry.

MAC

Well we're really screwed now. We can't let that thing or the other one get to any populated areas.

COLE

But maybe some scientists could study it. Maybe they could find a vaccine or something.

MAC

That's a wonderful dream, but it isn't reality. If that thing gets out it will start imitating everyone and everything in sight.

COLE

How do we keep it from coming back to life?

MAC

I can't help you on this. The only way is to kill it. And the only way to that is burn it to a crisp. I don't know any other way.

LANG

What if we freeze it? If we freeze it then its cellular activity would be kept to a minimum.

COLE

Good idea, Lang. We'll store it in the kitchen freezers. Then when we leave we'll keep it on ice somehow.

Cole zips back up the bag. Mac shakes his head in dismay.

MAC

I've never seen such ignorance. You guys just saw one of those things and now you're talking about bringing one back for show and tell.

COLE

I don't have any other choice, Mac! My hands are tied.

Mac walks off in disgust.

COLE (CONT'D)

Logan, you stay here and watch Garrett. Lang, help me get this thing to the freezers.

Cole and Lang begin lifting the thing off the table. Lang suddenly jerks, almost dropping his end of the bag.

COLE (CONT'D)

What is it?

LANG

I thought I felt it move.

COLE

Get your end if it! Hurry! Let's get this thing on ice.

Lang picks his end up and they race out of the room with the body.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Harris and Anderson are in the rec room watching the barricaded front door. Mac glances at it and smiles. Mac sits down at the table.

MAC

You guys think that barricade will hold?

Harris and Anderson look at each other then they look at the barricade.

ANDERSON

No.

MAC

Who's going after it?

HARRIS

Go after it? Are you freaking crazy? I'm not doing any such thing.

MAC

Do you want that thing getting out and imitating your family? If it gets away then that's exactly what it will do. We have to stop it.

ANDERSON

What are you talking about?

MAC

27,000 hours. That's how long the world would have left once it gets to populated areas. After that you can write us all off.

HARRIS

How do you know that?

MAC

Blair, one of my crew members, studied it. He was a biologist, and a very smart one at that.

ANDERSON

Harris, where's the other flame unit?

HARRIS

It's in the supply room. Why?

ANDERSON

Let's get with Cole and see what we can do.

Mac smiles at Anderson.

MAC

Finally someone around here has come to his senses.

Mac and Anderson race off to find Harris.

HARRIS

Wait a minute! Where do you two think
you're going?

INT. OUTPOST 16 - KITCHEN

Mac and Anderson enter the kitchen just as Cole and Lang are closing the freezer door. Cole slams the door shut and puts a lock on it. Cole looks at all the men.

COLE

This door stays shut, do you guys
understand?

ANDERSON

I guess we should get the other flame
unit and go after that thing.

COLE

That was going to be my next plan.

Anderson glances at Mac as he speaks to Cole.

ANDERSON

I think we should give it to Macready
here.

Cole pauses. He looks up at Mac.

COLE

Okay, Mac, we'll test you. If you
turn out okay then we'll let you in.

Cole raises a finger and gives Mac a stern look.

COLE (CONT'D)

But if you try anything funny, I'll
make sure you stay at this
outpost...permanently. Understand?

MAC

Sure thing.

COLE

Anderson, go get the other
flamethrower. I'll be giving Mac the
test.

Cole heads to the rec room. Mac and Lang follow him. Anderson races off to supply room.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Mac plops down on the couch. He massages his temples. Cole prepares the test.

COLE

What's the matter, Macready? Still got that hangover?

Mac just grunts.

LANG

I'll get you some coffee. The caffeine will help you wake up.

MAC

Don't worry about it. I'll survive.

Mac tries to shake off the headache. Cole walks over and hands him a knife and a cup.

COLE

Here you go, Mac. I hope you don't have any surprises for us.

Anderson comes in with the other flame unit. He also has a box of TNT under his arm.

COLE (CONT'D)

Anderson, put on that flame unit. Harris, you keep a good eye on Macready here.

Mac looks at the knife in his hand. He looks around at all the well armed men in the room.

MAC

You come prepared this time.

COLE

Just because I'm giving you this chance doesn't mean I trust you.

MAC

Trust is a tough thing to come by these days.

Mac slices his hand with the knife. Blood runs down his sleeve. He holds the cup over the dripping blood and collects it. He smiles and hands Cole the cup. Cole tosses him a bandage and Mac wraps his hand with it.

COLE

We'll soon find out if you are worth trusting.

Cole places the cup on the table. He warms up the wire again and holds it over the cup. Cole slowly lowers the wire in the cup.

Nothing happens. There's just the innocent sizzling sound of burning human blood.

COLE (CONT'D)

I wasn't expecting that.

Mac smiles.

MAC

I was.

COLE

Anderson, take off your flamethrower and give it to Macready.

Anderson complies and gives it to Mac. Macready gets up and puts the flame unit on.

COLE (CONT'D)

Remember though, Mac, I'm still in charge here. You take my orders.

MAC

I don't mind a bit, as long as you use your head.

COLE

Here's what I've got in mind. Logan stays with Garrett in the infirmary. I don't want him alone here while we're out so I'm going to leave Lang here with them.

ANDERSON

How are we going to do the search?

COLE

We'll do it in two man teams. Harris, you and Mac search around the base. Anderson, you and I will take one of the tractors and search farther out from camp since it's got a head start on us.

MAC

That's not a very good idea.

COLE

Why not?

MAC

When we went looking for Fuchs we went in two man teams. We shouldn't go out with fewer than three or four men per team.

COLE

Well we've only got six men and I'm not leaving anyone alone in here

(MORE)

COLE (CONT'D)

with Garrett or that thing in the freezer.

MAC

I doubt it's trying to get away. It'll want to imitate at least one or two more of us. That's how it survives. No, it's still around here somewhere, waiting for the right time.

COLE

All right then. Anderson, you and Harris go with Mac. I'll stay here with the others. We'll keep an eye on him, and when you all get back we'll test him, too.

MAC

Watch him close. All it takes is a few cells from that thing to start the process. He's probably a goner, already.

COLE

Make it a quick search. The weather is only getting worse, so don't stray too far.

MAC

Are you guys ready?

Harris bulks up and stands proud.

HARRIS

Let's do it.

ANDERSON

I'll take some of that TNT. If you're right about it then I don't want to be walking around out there just waving my dick around.

MAC

Let's go.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - ENTRANCE

The three men are putting on their heavy winter gear. Anderson gives Mac a flashlight. Harris pulls out a handful of flares from his pack and gives them to Mac.

HARRIS

You might need these.

Anderson opens the door. A strong wind and snow blow into the hallway. The three men head out and close the door behind them.

EXT. OUTPOST 16 - NIGHT

The three men all turn on their flashlights. The night is extremely dark. A strong winds kicks up. Mac walks over to Anderson.

MAC

You know your way around this place better than me. You lead the way.

ANDERSON

There's a supply shed north of the main camp. Maybe we can start there. Also there's a ravine to the south. It might be hiding in there. If it got to the ravine we'll need to go by chopper.

MAC

How far is it?

ANDERSON

About three and a half miles.

MAC

Is there anything else around here besides the shed?

ANDERSON

The kennels are on the east side of the main building.

Mac grimaces.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Don't worry, the science team took the few dogs they had with them.

MAC

Good. Let's check the shed first.

ANDERSON

Okay.

Anderson takes the lead and the three men head off into the dark night.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - KITCHEN

The freezer door is open.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - REC ROOM

Cole and Lang are working on a makeshift flame unit. Lang has hooked up a fuel canister to a butane torch. Cole looks at it with concern.

COLE

I don't know, Lang. This thing looks awfully dangerous.

LANG

It is. It's the best I could do though with what we have around here.

COLE

How do I use it?

LANG

Just turn on the gas on the torch. The fuel from the gas tank will pass from the hose through the butane nozzle. When you're ready hit the igniter on the torch and enjoy the show.

COLE

Maybe you should use it.

LANG

No way. I'm just a science officer. I'm not trained for any of this stuff.

COLE

But I am in charge here since the civilian authorities are gone. And I'm asking you help out. Don't make me have to tell you to.

LANG

(hesitant)
All right.

Lang puts on the rigged flame unit.

COLE

Go and watch Garrett with Logan.

LANG

Where are you going to be?

COLE

Around.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - INFIRMARY

Lang walks in and sees Logan sitting on the floor writing in a journal. Logan's rifle is propped up against the wall.

Garrett is dead asleep on the infirmary table.

LANG

Cole told me to come watch Garrett with you.

Logan looks up and sees Lang's new flame unit.

LOGAN

What's that you got there?

LANG

It's just something I built. It's a rigged up flamethrower.

LOGAN

Looks dangerous. Do me a favor and stay away from me if you plan on using it.

Lang looks down and sees Logan's journal.

LANG

What are you writing?

LOGAN

I've been writing a journal since I came to the Antarctic. People told me that I'd have a lot of free time on my hands so I decided to do this to keep me busy.

LANG

Well I hope you're writing all of this down. This would make one hell of a good novel.

LOGAN

Believe it.

LANG

How's Garrett?

LOGAN

He hasn't moved since I drugged him. I wrapped him up good and stopped the bleeding.

LANG

Mac, Harris, and Anderson went to go try and find that thing. Cole wants to test Garrett when they get back.

LOGAN

That sounds good to me. I don't know why I should have to stay in here all night long by myself.

As the two men speak to each other, their attention falls away from Garrett on the table. They are not watching him when the blanket moves slightly.

EXT. OUTPOST 16 - SHED - NIGHT

The men arrive at the shed. They search around the outside. Everything appears normal.

ANDERSON

Everything looks okay. Let's go inside and check around. Harris, you stand by the door and keep a look out.

Anderson opens the door and enters. Mac follows behind him. Harris stops at the doorway and stands guard.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - SHED

Anderson and Mac look around the small shed. A large work desk is in the far corner. Anderson walks over to it. There are tools scattered all over it.

ANDERSON

Someone's been in here.

Mac walks over to the work desk.

MAC

How do you know?

Anderson points to the scattered tools.

ANDERSON

When we first got here Lang told us some things about their station manager. Apparently he was a real tight ass. He wanted his work areas clean and tidy. That included the supply shed. Lang said he demanded that everyone keep their work areas tip-top. Now just look at this mess here, does it look tip-top to you?

MAC

Have any of your men been in here?

Mac spots a hammer on the floor, picks it up, and places it back on the desk.

ANDERSON

No, we've been in the main building since we got here. Who would want to get in here?

MAC

That thing. It has a habit of building space ships any chance it gets. It was probably in here scrounging around for materials or tools.

ANDERSON

Well, it's going to find this station pretty unappealing. This station doesn't have the resources yours did.

MAC

No, but there are tractors and a chopper. If it wants out it'll get out any way it can.

ANDERSON

What are trying to say?

MAC

We have to destroy those vehicles. We have to stop that thing from getting out by any means necessary.

ANDERSON

I think we should get with Cole first if we're going to do that.

MAC

We don't have time for that! We have to stop that thing now.

ANDERSON

Okay, but let's find it first. We'll deal with the vehicles on our way back.

MAC

Where to next?

ANDERSON

The kennels.

EXT. OUTPOST 16 - KENNELS - NIGHT

The three men get to the rear entrance to the kennels. The kennel door is open. They all race over to it.

ANDERSON

The door is open!

HARRIS

Can you see if there's anyone in there?

MAC

We're going to find out.

Mac doesn't pause but storms through the kennel doorway. Anderson and Harris run in after him.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - KENNELS

They all run in and look around. The kennels are empty. Everything is quiet.

ANDERSON

What's going on here, Mac?

MAC

It was looking for the dogs. It's trying to find animals to imitate. It's a good thing those boys took their mutts with them.

ANDERSON

The only animals around the camp are the...birds!

Anderson and Mac exchange worried looks.

MAC

Lead the way, Anderson!

The three men run out of the kennel.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - KITCHEN

Cole is making a search around the camp. He enters the kitchen and heads toward the freezers. He turns the corner and sees that the freezer door is open.

COLE

Holy shit!

Cole runs into the freezer doorway and looks in. The bag is still there but the body is gone. Cole races out of the kitchen.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - INFIRMARY

Cole bursts into the room. Logan and Lang look up startled.

LANG

What is it?

COLE

The freezer door is open! The body is gone!

LANG

What?!

COLE

Logan, stay here with Garrett! Lang,
follow me!

INT. OUTPOST 16 - KITCHEN

Cole leads Lang into the kitchen. Cole shows him the open door and the body bag.

LANG

What the fuck do we do now?

COLE

It has to be in here somewhere. We've
got to find it. Come on!

INT. OUTPOST 16 - INFIRMARY

Logan has grabbed his rifle. He's keeping his eyes on the doorway. Suddenly a loud banging and screeching can be heard down the hall. Logan backs up. His attention is away from Garrett.

GARRETT

His eyes slowly open. His eyes are completely black. His mouth opens, revealing a huge set of razor sharp fangs.

LOGAN

Hey, guys! What the hell is that
sound? Where's that coming from?
Guys!

LOGAN

Behind him, Garrett is slowly rising from the table. The familiar sound of hissing comes from behind Logan. Logan hears it and turns to see Garrett changing on the table.

Slimy tendrils flop out from under the blanket. A set of long spikes burst through the blanket as Garrett transforms.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Garrett?!

Garrett begins screeching on the table. His body rises up and leaps off the table. Logan fires several rounds at it. The creature stumbles back from the gunshots. It growls in pain and lurches toward Logan.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Get away from me!

INT. OUTPOST 16 - HALLWAY

Logan runs into the hall. He slams the door behind him. The thing starts trying to pry the door open.

Logan braces himself against it. A spiked arm bursts through the door, almost hitting Logan.

LOGAN
Cole! Get in here!

Cole and Lang appear at the end of the hallway. They race to Logan. Cole sees the door heaving and helps Logan keep it from opening.

COLE
What the hell is going on?!

LOGAN
Garrett is one of those things! It tried to get me!

COLE
We're going to have to open this door and blast it! Lang, are you ready?!

Lang raises his flame torch and aims it at the doorway. He turns on the gas.

LANG
Yeah!

COLE
On the count of the three we're going to dive out of the way. When we do this door is going to open for sure. When it does blast it! Are you ready Logan?!

Logan nods his head as he struggles to keep the door shut.

COLE (CONT'D)
Okay, here we go! One! Two! Three!

Logan and Cole let go of the door and dive out of the way. The door bursts open and Garrett stands in the doorway.

Garrett sees Lang in the hallway and leaps from the doorway toward Lang. Lang squeezes off a stream of fire from the flame unit. It pours all over the creature. Garrett stumbles back, lets out a yell, and retreats into the infirmary.

Cole jumps up and races into the room. Garrett is lurching back in the far corner of the room.

COLE (CONT'D)
Get in here, Lang!

Lang and Logan both run in. Logan grabs a fire extinguisher from the wall.

COLE (CONT'D)

Hit it again! It's trying to get away! Kill it!

Lang squeezes off another burst of flame. The entire rear part of the room lights up in a huge ball of fire. Garrett screams some more and then goes quiet. Garrett falls to the ground and stops moving.

COLE (CONT'D)

Wait for a second and then go put out the fire!

Logan readies his extinguisher.

COLE (CONT'D)

Okay, go put it out!

Logan runs over and puts out the fire. Smoke and ash fly around the room. The men look on, exhausted and in shock.

LANG

We should have tested him before the others went out.

COLE

It doesn't matter now.

LOGAN

Were you guys making all that noise a minute ago?

COLE

We heard it too. We thought it was coming from down here. Wasn't it?

LOGAN

No. I heard some noises and that's when Garrett started to change.

COLE

Then we had better go look. We'll clean this up later. Come on.

Cole leads the other men out of the still smoking infirmary.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - BIRD PENS - HALLWAY

Cole and his men are standing in the hallway. Terrible sounds are coming from the room. Lang has his flame unit aimed at the door.

Mac and his men come running in from the end of the hallway. All the men gather at the bird pen door. Screeching and banging comes from the room.

COLE

You guys are supposed to be outside!
What are you doing in here?

MAC

We had a feeling about the birds. I
guess we were right.

ANDERSON

Well who...I mean what is in there?

COLE

It must be the body from the freezer.
Somehow it got out and found the
birds.

MAC

Well I'm not going to let it live
long enough to give us the answers.
Somebody open that door, now!

Anderson reaches for the doorknob. He grabs it tight. Mac
raises his flamethrower at the door.

MAC (CONT'D)

Open it!

Anderson pushes the door open. The muffled screams from inside
are now loud and almost unbearable. Mac enters first followed
by the rest.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - BIRD PENS

The room is dark. The men enter and gaze in awe at what they
see. All the cages are busted open. Feathers are flying
everywhere. Several of the birds are attached by huge
tendrils. The tendrils are attached to a huge creature lurking
in a dark corner.

Harris and Anderson both shine their flashlights at it. The
creature retreats from the light. Mac approaches slowly. The
creature backs away. A disturbing movement comes from it.

MAC

You thought you could take over all
these birds and get away with it,
didn't you?

A strange gurgling sound emits from the beast.

MAC (CONT'D)

Not this time, pal.

Mac raises his flamethrower. He's about to kill it when the
thing nearly explodes. It bursts wide open and a huge bird
creature flies out of the creature's chest cavity. The bird's
wings are made of slimy leathery flesh.

Its feathers aren't feathers; they're more like tiny spikes or scales.

The bird cackles at them and flaps its huge wings. It begins pulling in the other birds closer to it. Several of the birds are trying to get away from it. The bird creature opens its mouth and faces the men.

MAC (CONT'D)

Get out of here!

All of the other men run out of the room. They clear out of the doorway just as the bird vomits a huge amount of slimy goop at them. The disgusting green liquid splashes harmlessly against the door. The thing turns to face Mac. Mac is already on his feet and aiming his flamethrower at it.

MAC (CONT'D)

It's too late now, birdie!

Mac turns on the flamethrower and a huge stream hits the beast squarely on the head just as it's about to vomit on him. The bird recoils in pain. Its burning wings begin flapping and it tries to fly up toward the ceiling.

MAC (CONT'D)

Somebody toss me some explosives!

Cole runs in and gives Mac a handful of TNT. Mac grabs a small set of TNT sticks that are taped together. As he prepares the TNT, the Nauls creature that is in the corner rises up and bursts through the far wall. It runs off in the snow. Mac grabs the stick of TNT and lights it up.

MAC (CONT'D)

Your friend is a lot smarter than you, pal!

Mac tosses the TNT at the creature. Mac grabs Cole and they race out of the room. They get through the doorway just as the TNT hits the flames.

BOOM!!!

INT. OUTPOST 16 - BIRD PENS - HALLWAY

The entire room explodes in a huge violent explosion. Part of the hallway blows apart and collapses down on the men.

Mac pushes a burning chunk of wood off of himself and slowly gets up. Cole and the others slowly get up and dust themselves off.

They all look over each other for injuries. Logan goes to shake off a piece of burning wood that is on his foot. As he does he winces in pain. A long splinter of wood is sticking out of his arm.

Anderson crawls over to him and yanks it out. Logan screams in pain and passes out. Anderson pulls him up and carries him off to the infirmary.

MAC
Everyone else okay?

They nod. Harris holds his ears.

HARRIS
My ears are ringing.

MAC
I imagine all of ours are.

COLE
Do you think any of it might be left?

MAC
I saw the body from the freezer smash through the wall and run outside.

COLE
So we've now got two of those things out there.

MAC
There's something we've got to do Cole.

COLE
What's that?

MAC
We have to destroy those vehicles.

INT. OUTPOST 16 - GARAGE

Mac, Cole, Lang, and Harris enter the garage. It too is strangely quiet and empty. Mac goes over to one of the tractors.

MAC
We may need one of the choppers to go look for that thing in the morning. All the rest of the vehicles have to be destroyed.

Mac turns to address the men.

MAC (CONT'D)
I know some of you might think that would be suicide. It might be. That thing cannot be allowed to get out.

COLE
What do you have in mind?

MAC

There's six of us and only two of it...hopefully. That thing can only get so far in one night. We should destroy these tractors and all but one of the choppers. In the morning we hunt them down and kill them. What do you say?

COLE

We're with you, Mac. Our jobs are to help save lives. If we can do our part to help save all of humanity then you can count on us.

MAC

You're starting to come around, Cole.

Cole smiles at Mac.

COLE

Let's finish it.

Mac smiles back.

LATER

The men are destroying the tractors. Harris is swinging a huge axe at the fuel tanks. They puncture and fuel drains out of them. Mac and Anderson are under the hoods, pulling out parts and wiring. Cole is in the cabin of one of the tractors, smashing the driving consoles with a hammer.

Logan and Lang enter the garage. Logan's arm is bandaged.

LOGAN

What the hell are you guys doing in here?

COLE

We're not going to let that thing get a chance to drive out of here in one of these. We already went and took out the station chopper and one of ours. We'll use our other chopper to go hunt that thing down. How are you feeling, Logan?

LOGAN

I'll manage, sir.

Mac walks over to Lang and Logan. Mac wipes his dirty hands off with a rag.

MAC

We're blowing this place when we leave. We have to.

LANG

I'll get my personal things.

MAC

There's no time for that.

LANG

But I've got important work here! I should be able to take it with me.

Logan stares at Mac. He sees the desperation and sacrifice in Mac's eyes.

LOGAN

It doesn't matter anymore, Lang. We're not going to make it.

LANG

What are you talking about?

Lang walks over to Mac. He stares him in the face.

LANG (CONT'D)

I'm only 29 years old! I don't have any intention of going out in a blaze of glory with you old farts!

Mac raises his flamethrower at him.

MAC

Then you can just go out blazing...right now.

Lang is in shock. The others stop what they're doing and watch.

LANG

We don't deserve this, Mac...to die out here in the cold, all alone.

MAC

It's not my choice, either. That thing must be stopped. The only way to do that is to be willing to sacrifice what that thing isn't.

LANG

You're crazy! Are you guys all going for this kamikaze shit?

MAC

These are desperate times, my friend. Now, you can either come with us in the chopper, or I can torch you where you stand...right here...right now.

LANG

Then do it if you think that's best,
but I'm not going to kill myself.

MAC

You don't know what you're saying.
I'll do it.

Lang walks right up to Mac. There's a brief tense moment between the two men. Mac lowers his flamethrower. Mac can't do it.

MAC (CONT'D)

You really must be as crazy as me.

BANG!

A shot rings out. Lang looks down to see blood appear on his chest. Lang grabs for his chest and falls to the ground. Mac looks up at the tractor to see Cole holding his pistol. Cole jumps down from the tractor and holsters his gun.

MAC (CONT'D)

Why did you shoot him?!

COLE

He was disobeying my orders.

MAC

He was disobeying me! What do you mean your orders?

COLE

Once I agreed with you they became my orders. Remember, Mac, I'm still in charge here.

MAC

You're a stubborn son of a bitch, Cole.

COLE

I'm not taking any more bullshit. You're right, Mac, we have to stop it, and no one is going to stand in my way.

MAC

Whatever you say, boss.

EXT. OUTPOST 16 - DAWN

The burned remains Garrett and the birds are piled in a small pit. The body of Lang is lying next to them. Mac walks up to the edge of the pit and shoots a stream of fire on the bodies. All the other men are standing around the pit with shovels. Cole stands next to Mac.

COLE

I had to do it, Mac. I'm sure you understand my position.

MAC

More so than you realize.

COLE

All right guys. Let these bodies burn for a few more minutes then bury them all real good. Mac, let's go get those explosives ready.

CLOSEUP of the bodies burning.

LATER

Anderson, Logan, and Harris are at the chopper loading it up with supplies. Mac and Cole exit from the outpost at a run. They all gather by the chopper and wait. A moment or two goes by.

BOOM!!!

The entire outpost erupts in a huge fireball. Chunks of wood and debris fly in all directions. The sound is deafening. Cole smiles with satisfaction. Mac just looks on with a cold vacant stare. He's seen all this before.

COLE

Everyone get on board! It's time to do a little hunting!

All the men climb aboard. Mac gets in the pilot seat and turns on the engine. The rotors come to life and within moments they are airborne. The chopper flies off into the sky.

INT. HELICOPTER

Mac occasionally glances out the window, scanning the ground for any signs of the creature. He stays low to the ground so they can get a good look for tracks in the snow.

MAC

How far off is that ravine?

ANDERSON

It's about three kilometers to the south. It leads to a large canyon even farther south.

MAC

How big is that canyon?

ANDERSON

How big would you like?

MAC

That big, huh? Well it might be there,
lots of hiding places in canyons.

The chopper races across the sky. The sun is fading behind a
wall of clouds.

MAC (CONT'D)

Shit.

COLE

I know. We're getting a white out.

MAC

I thought you said the weather was
going to get better.

COLE

The last update I got before we left
said that the storm was letting up
and we were going to get only light
winds.

MAC

Goddamn weather men. What the hell
do they know?

COLE

You're going to have to set it down,
Mac. I don't want us to crash and
die before we even find them.

MAC

I know! I know!

ANDERSON

Look down there! I think that's the
ravine. See how it snakes around the
embankment. Yeah, that's it.

COLE

Set her down on that elevated hill,
Mac. We'll set out from there.

EXT. RAVINE - DAWN

Mac slowly hovers above the plateau and lands the chopper.
The men exit and start loading up their gear. Anderson pulls
out a small map and looks at it.

ANDERSON

This is the beginning of the ravine.
The entrance is about 500 meters or
so, then the ravine itself lowers
down below the surface for about
another 1000 or so meters.

(MORE)

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

After that its elevation evens out until it ends at the entrance to the canyon.

COLE

You're the map man, Anderson. You lead.

Mac and Harris are carrying the flamethrowers. Cole has a pack full of TNT and a rifle. Anderson is armed with Lang's makeshift flame unit. Logan is wearing a pistol and has a flashlight. He also has most of the food and supplies in his back pack.

The men all follow the ravine entrance and disappear behind a wall of snow and ice.

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

The sun is now hidden behind the clouds. The men all walk down into the ravine. Logan spots a set of tracks in the snow.

LOGAN

Look over there!

They all run over to the tracks. The tracks aren't normal foot prints. It looks more like something was walking around with a hundred feet. Tiny claw like tracks lead down into the ravine.

COLE

It looks like we're heading in the right direction.

MAC

It wants to be found, just not by us. It probably thought it could hide from us here.

COLE

It thought wrong. All right guys, let's follow these tracks.

LATER

The tracks just go on and on. Mac stops suddenly. The other men look at him.

MAC

It's a trick.

COLE

What are you talking about?

MAC

It wants us to follow these tracks.
It wants us away from the chopper!
It probably left these tracks for us
to follow, and then it somehow back
tracked and got behind us.

COLE

Fuck me! Anderson, you and Logan
keep following these tracks! Mac,
you and Harris follow me back to the
chopper!

ANDERSON

What do we do if we find it?

Cole and the others are already racing back to the chopper.

COLE

Then kill the goddamn thing! You
have a flamethrower for fucking sakes!

Cole, Mac, and Harris race as fast as they can for the
chopper.

EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Cole, Mac, and Harris reach the corner of the ravine and
come to a dead stop. On the hill next to the chopper is the
Nauls creature, lurching around the chopper.

It begins changing shape in front of their eyes. Its mass
decreases to a size that will allow it to get inside the
chopper. Its arms shrink in size and more human like hands
appear from the forearms. It begins to look more like Nauls
by the second.

Cole and Harris seem hesitant. Mac looks at them and then
charges toward the beast. Cole and Harris follow after him.

COLE

Be careful!

MAC

Get around to the side of it, Harris!
We'll surround it and then we'll
burn it!

The thing now sees the men and screams at them. It retreats
back closer to the chopper. The men surround it. Mac and
Harris aim their flamethrowers at it.

MAC (CONT'D)

Now, Harris! Blast him!

Harris squeezes the trigger. As he does the thing shoots out
a small tentacle from its chest.

The tentacle flies toward Harris and rams itself through the flames and into the barrel of Harris's flamethrower. The burning fuel retracts back into the tank and it explodes as Harris is wearing it.

BOOM!!!

Harris is engulfed in a wall of fire. He screams and runs around, trying to put out the flames. He drops and attempts to put out the flames in the snow but it's too late. Harris stops moving.

The thing shoots out another tentacle at Mac. It flies towards him as he jumps out of the way. Mac drops to one knee and squeezes the trigger. Fire sets the creature ablaze. The monster screeches and tries to flee. Its burning flesh melts off into the snow as it tries to escape.

MAC (CONT'D)

Cole, get some TNT! Toss it now!

Cole grins and grabs some TNT from his pack. He lights a group of three sticks and hurls it at the retreating monster.

BOOM!!!

Pieces of the monster fly in all directions. The screams go silent. Small burning chunks of flesh dot the area. Mac runs and stomps out a few pieces that land near the chopper. Mac and Cole pause to survey the carnage.

MAC (CONT'D)

So long, Nauls. I sure will miss your cooking.

COLE

Well that's one more down.

Gunshots are heard coming from the ravine, and then shouting. Mac and Cole look in the direction of the ravine.

MAC

It looks like they found another one.

Logan and then Anderson come running out from the ravine entrance. They are running as fast as they can.

ANDERSON

Start the goddamn chopper! We have to get off the ground now!

COLE

What is it?

Anderson and Logan reach the hill and keep running past Cole toward the chopper.

Cole turns to see that Mac is already at the chopper, firing up the engines.

COLE (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on?

ANDERSON
Look!

A dog like creature comes running around the corner of the ravine. It leaps and hurls itself up the hill toward the men.

COLE
Oh, fuck! Run! Get to the chopper!

All the others are already in the chopper. Cole races and dives in. The rotors are spinning now but the chopper still doesn't have the power to lift off.

INT. HELICOPTER

Cole jumps in and crawls into the front passenger seat. Mac is busy flipping buttons and trying to get all the juice he can to the engine.

COLE
Get us out of here, Mac! What the hell are you doing?!

MAC
This isn't a hot rod, Cole, it's a goddamn helicopter! You can't just turn the key and fly away!

The creature is now bounding toward the chopper. Mac finally has the engines powered up enough to take off.

MAC (CONT'D)
All right, I got it! Everyone, hold on! We're taking off!

Mac pushes down on the throttle and the chopper lurches into the air. The creature grabs onto the landing gear. Mac gets to a decent altitude and screams at Cole.

MAC (CONT'D)
Put on my flamethrower, Cole! Burn that goddamn thing!

Cole looks around and sees Mac's flamethrower on the chopper deck. He grabs it and throws open the chopper door.

COLE'S POV

He aims the flamethrower and fires. Huge streams of fire leap from the chopper and hit the creature dead on.

The monster loses its grip and falls to the ground. Cole laughs maniacally.

COLE
Burn, you fucking bastard!

MAC
Grab some TNT! Drop it on the damn thing!

Cole reaches into his pack and takes out several sticks of TNT. He lights them and one by one tosses them out the chopper. Explosions go off below them, sending snow and chunks of alien flying.

COLE
I think we got it.

MAC
I'll set her down and we'll finish it off.

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

The chopper has landed again. Mac and Logan are near the chopper burning and clearing up any creature remains. Anderson and Cole are in the ravine doing one last search. Cole and Anderson appear from the ravine and return to the chopper.

COLE
We didn't find anything else. I think that was the last one.

MAC
You better be sure. We don't have enough fuel to keep landing and taking off like this.

COLE
We looked everywhere. We searched under every nook and cranny.

Mac looks up and sees that the sun is slowly setting.

MAC
We better get moving now. We don't have many flying hours left today. It's already midday.

COLE
Where to next, Mac?

MAC
Outpost 31.

COLE

You mean your old camp? Why, we already went over that place with a fine tooth comb.

MAC

There's someone...or something I need to find.

COLE

What are you talking about?

MAC

You mean Lang didn't tell you?

COLE

Tell me what?

MAC

I wasn't the only survivor at outpost 31. There was another man. His name is Childs.

COLE

Fucking great! I'm so glad you have been honest with us here Mac! Is there anything you're forgetting to tell me?

MAC

Nothing comes to mind.

COLE

Why didn't you tell us that when we first found you?

MAC

I was getting around to it. You didn't make things any easier on me when you shot me with a tranquilizer dart.

COLE

Well, I guess we're all dead anyways. Who the fuck cares?! Let's get to that outpost and pray to god your friend is a meat popsicle.

All the men climb aboard. Mac starts the engines up.

EXT. OUTPOST 31 - DUSK

The chopper appears in the sky through the fading light. The clouds help usher in the darkness. The chopper hovers above the destroyed camp. Mac and the others exit the chopper. Cole gets out and slams the chopper door shut.

COLE

Spread out. Try and find Mac's missing pal. Shout out if your spot anything...odd.

The men all start searching around the rubble. Mac looks up and sees that the sun is setting fast.

MAC

We don't have much light left. Make it quick, guys.

Logan and Anderson head off toward the remains of Mac's shack. Cole clicks on his flashlight and rummages through the main building. Mac stares off into the distance.

Something is coming toward them on foot. From Mac's view it appears to be a man on stilts. It is leaping and bounding after them on huge legs. Its frame suggests that it's a man; a man that is seven or eight feet tall.

MAC (CONT'D)

Guys, get over here!

All the men come running. Mac points to the creature in the distance. It's now only a few hundred yards away. It is moving with tremendous speed.

ANDERSON

Jesus Christ! What the fuck is that?!

MAC

I don't know but it's moving really fast. Get ready!

COLE

Everyone spread out! Mac, you and Anderson move back. Logan and I will distract it. If it moves then hit it from the sides with your flamethrowers.

MAC

Don't miss. You toss that stick in the wrong direction and there won't anything left of us for it to imitate.

COLE

Trust me.

Cole smiles at Mac. Mac doesn't return the smile. Mac and Anderson spread apart from the others. Mac is on the right, Anderson on the left. Logan watches the creature appear with anxious dread.

LOGAN

What do I do, Major?

COLE

You've got one good arm and a pistol.
You're the bait.

LOGAN

Great.

COLE

Move out in front of us. Let it see
you. Bring it to us, Logan.

Logan looks at Cole like wants to disobey the order.

COLE (CONT'D)

That's an order, Logan. Move!

Logan reluctantly obliges. He races toward the oncoming
monster.

It's the Taylor creature. It sprouts long arms and raises
them like a striking spider. It looks like its going to jump
at them.

It stops in the snow only a hundred yards or so away.

LOGAN

What the hell is it doing?

MAC

It smells our trap. It doesn't trust
us either.

The creature drops to the ground and burrows under the snow.
The monster disappears under the ground and vanishes. The
men are in shock.

LOGAN

Oh, god! Where did it go?!

COLE

The sun's going down! Everyone get
out your flashlights!

Mac and the others turn on their flashlights. The air goes
deadly quiet. A soft howling wind blows.

MAC

It's underneath us.

COLE

What? How can it crawl through frozen
earth that fast?

MAC

It's not human. Who the fuck knows
what it can do?

LOGAN

How do we fight something we can't see?

Logan starts panicking. He pulls out his pistol and aims it at the ground.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Come out from there and fight fair!

Logan fires off several rounds into the frozen earth. A deep growl emits from somewhere underground.

ANDERSON

Stop shooting at it! You're going to piss it off!

Silence again. Mac senses something. He raises his flamethrower at a dark patch of snow.

MAC

Everyone spread out! We don't want that thing coming up and taking us all in one bite.

The men spread out even further away from each other. More sounds come from underground, from everywhere it seems. The men look around in all directions.

MAC (CONT'D)

Quiet! Listen for it!

Silence again. Something grabs Logan from underneath the ground. Snow flies up in all directions. A huge clawed talon hooks Logan but the back of the neck and pulls him under the ground.

LOGAN

Help me!

Mac and the others race toward Logan. Mac gets to him just as a tentacle wraps itself around Logan's face and shoves itself down his throat. Logan gurgles, trying to scream. Mac runs to Cole and grabs a stick of TNT from Cole's pack.

COLE

What the hell are you doing?!

MAC

He's gone! We have to take our chances and blow this god damn thing away! I suggest you act fast!

Logan and the thing heave up from the ground and in a split second both disappear under the snow once more. Logan's muffled screams die out as he is yanked down. Silence again.

Mac lights his TNT and tosses it down the hole in the snow. Cole watches him and lights own stick.

BOOM!!!

The earth erupts in a huge explosion. Cole steadies himself and tosses his stick as well.

BOOM!!!

The earth is torn apart by the explosions. The ground explodes behind Anderson; only it isn't from the TNT.

Anderson spins around to see a creature that resembles both Taylor and Logan. Its head splits open and a giant dog face emerges from inside the creature's body. The dog face flies out attached to a large snake like tendril.

Anderson is too numb with fear to scream. He tries to back away. He raises his flamethrower. The dog face lurches out from the creature and grabs onto Anderson's face, biting it clean off.

COLE

Anderson! No!

The dog face lets go of Anderson and retracts itself back into its own body. The creature spins to face Cole and Mac. Anderson's lifeless body drops to the ground.

MAC

I'll burn this son of a bitch!

Mac begins moving in towards it. Mac raises his flamethrower and fires. A huge stream of flames falls in front of it. The creature backs away from the fire and howls.

Cole lights another stick.

MAC (CONT'D)

Now, Cole! Toss the damn thing!

Cole throws the stick. It lands in the flames and explodes.

BOOM!!!

Part of the blast catches it and the monster is thrown back off its legs. Mac races over to Cole. He grabs a large fat wad of TNT. Cole looks on in dread.

COLE

What the hell are you doing, Mac?
That's too much! We'll both die!

MAC

That's the idea!

(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

Now tape these together! I'll keep
it dancing until you're ready!

Cole gives Mac a defiant look.

COLE

I don't want to die. Not here..not
now.

MAC

We all have to die, Cole. Let's just
make sure that thing doesn't live
any longer than we do.

Cole starts taping half a dozen sticks of TNT together. Mac
aims his flamethrower and fires again. The creature is now
retreating from the flames. It backs from the fire. It
crouches down and suddenly leaps into the air.

Mac aims and fires but he misses. The stream of fire goes
wide to the left. The creature lands right behind Mac and
Cole. Mac sprays some more fire in front of them to keep the
monster at bay.

Cole lights the TNT and shoves Mac out of the way.

COLE

Get out of the damn way! You've done
enough here! I'm taking that bastard
with me!

MAC

No, this is my fight! I have to finish
it!

COLE

If I die only you'll know how to
kill it! Go! That's an order, Mac!

Mac pauses. Cole pushes him out of the way. Mac sees the
creature rise up. He runs to the side of the flames and raises
his flamethrower. The creature runs through the flames and
jumps at Cole. The creature is burning. It howls in pain as
it reaches out for Cole.

Cole puts the TNT under his arm like a football and runs
towards it. The monster engulfs Cole in its embrace.

COLE (CONT'D)

Go! Run!

Mac aims his flamethrower well. Mac sees Cole being taken
over violently. Cole still clutches the TNT.

MAC

Eat shit and die!

Mac blasts the thing and Cole with a torrent of flames. The monster and Cole drown in fire. The flames hit the TNT.

BOOM!!!

The monster and Cole disappear in a tremendous explosion. Mac goes flying off his feet. There is a huge crater in the ground from where the TNT went off.

Mac slowly gets up.

MAC (CONT'D)

Now it's over.

MAC

He stands before the flames in the fading light.

LATER

Mac walks over to the scattered pieces of the monster and goes over them with the flamethrower to make sure they're dead. Mac looks up to see that the sun has gone below the horizon.

He walks around the camp looking for other pieces of the monster that might not be thoroughly burned. He finishes searching and walks over to the burned out remains of the shack where he retreated to during the first event.

Mac sits down in almost the same place as before, only this time the fire isn't enough to keep him warm. Mac looks around the smoking camp.

MAC

(to self)

Now all I need is another bottle of scotch.

A bottle of J&B plops down in the snow in front of Mac. Mac giggles and reaches for the bottle, not caring anymore who may have tossed it. Mac slowly looks up to see Childs standing above him.

MAC (CONT'D)

You have a bad habit of running off just when things get exciting.

Childs doesn't respond. Mac grabs the bottle and takes a swig.

MAC (CONT'D)

So where did you run off to this time?

CHILDS

I heard the choppers coming. I knew they'd charge us with murder for sure.

MAC

Well as you can see there's no one left to charge us with anything.

CHILDS

It doesn't matter now, anyhow. We're going to die soon enough.

MAC

I've been gone for three days. How did you survive out here all alone?

CHILDS

I rummaged through the camp, found some food from what was left of the kitchen. Had some matches and made a few fires to keep warm.

MAC

I don't buy it, Childs. We destroyed this camp. Everything.

CHILDS

I don't care what you believe, Mac. What difference does it make?

Mac sits up slowly and aims his flamethrower at Childs. Mac is all business.

MAC

It means you could be the thing. If you are then it matters a great deal.

Mac turns on the nozzle to the flamethrower. Gas whistles out in the cold night. Childs looks at Mac intensely.

CHILDS

I have a feeling you're going to do it whether I'm human or not.

Mac doesn't respond. He just stares at Childs.

CHILDS (CONT'D)

You don't trust me do you, Mac? After all we've been through?

MAC

You know me better than that, Childs. I don't trust anyone. Remember?

CHILDS

I guess not.

A sound in the distance breaks the conversation. It's a helicopter. The chopper is coming toward them, a bright search light points in the camp's direction. Childs looks out toward the approaching chopper.

CHILDS (CONT'D)

I knew there would more of them eventually. They are coming.

Childs turns to face Mac. His eyes have gone black. His mouth opens to reveal a nice new set of razor sharp fangs. Childs begins changing in front of Mac. Several small crablike arms erupt from his sides.

Mac jumps up, backs away, and raises his flamethrower.

CHILDS (CONT'D)

I don't have much time now. Let's make this easy now. It won't hurt...much.

Childs leaps at Mac. Mac fires right as Childs lands in front of him. The blast of fire is so close that part of the flames land on Mac's leg.

Mac continues torching Childs as he backs away. Mac pats out the fire with his hand. Childs howls and falls in front of Mac's feet. Childs squirms, trying to reach for Mac with his claw arms. Within moments Childs stops moving.

Everything is silent except for the wind and the sound of the approaching chopper. Mac looks down at Childs. He fires another blast at the corpse and watches it burn in the night.

MAC

(to self)

It paid not to trust you, Childs. Sometimes you just get a feeling about someone.

Mac watches as the chopper gets closer. Mac looks down at his flamethrower in his hands. He pulls his pistol out of his pocket with the other hand. He looks at both weapons.

MAC (CONT'D)

I won't let you all drag me around anymore. It's over...I'll see you in hell, you bastards.

Mac aims his pistol at his flamethrower fuel tank. The chopper hovers over Mac and blows snow and wind in his face.

Mac grins in the dark night.

A gunshot rings out.

FADE OUT: