

The Thing

By Ronald D. Moore

FADE IN:

We are flying high over an endless white landscape... lit harshly by the sun...jagged mountains rise up in the far distance...Antarctica.

The only sound is the wind. There is nothing to break the whiteness for several beats...

Slowly we are aware of a black dot in the distance, like a fly on a white sheet... But still too far away to actually see what it is.

Moving closer as music softly sets in ... The suspenseful heartbeat of Morricone's haunting score.

Flying, now even lower, we see that the dot is a snow truck driving carefully, slowly. In front of it are smaller dots; 5 humans leading the vehicle.

The men move in single file and we can see they are carrying equipment... the rhythm of their marching boots crunching the snow blends with the music ...a silent walk to an uncertain destiny.

The man leading the pack, holds a scientific device ...it emits a beeping sound, electronic, clicking ... methodically getting louder.

The men appear to be walking towards the source of the sound, following the signal. Suddenly they stop ... they are at the edge of a crevasse. They form a semi-circle around the leader.

The crevasse seems endlessly deep, fading into a blackness. The men look down, then at each other. In each set of goggles we see the reflection of the others. We sense their excitement... their confusion.

We slowly descend into the crevasse, leaving the men behind. As they recede, we go deeper ... the beeping sound getting louder and louder... something is down there, calling from the darkness...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. MCMURDO BASE - DAY

A mote of civilization among the ice wasteland. Buildings of concrete and metal huddle together in a grid of dirt roads. It looks like a construction site.

A large C130 approaches to land at the small airport...

TITLE CARD: MCMURDO BASE

EXT. MCMURDO AIRPORT TARMAC - DAY

The landing gear hits ice covered in salt, finds rough traction, and the C130 begins to slow.

EXT. MCMURDO AIRPORT TARMAC - MOMENTS LATER

The C130's cargo door opens like the maw of a dragon, and PASSENGERS pour out of it. These are not your normal air travelers. They're an eclectic mix of rugged outdoorsmen and wide-eyed scientists; the physically capable and the mentally adept, intermingled.

Forklifts approach the plane. A large bus-like truck with massive tires rolls by.

The PASSENGERS leaving the plane begin to thin out as a handful of PILOTS call out their connections:

AUSTRALIAN PILOT

Sydney Marine Lab?

AMERICAN PILOT

U.S. Meteorology! Davis and team!

Remaining on the ramp: A trio of passengers still without a pilot. Possibly the last group without one.

Standing in the front is SANDER HALVORSON. Sander is: Early fifties, stern, reeks of academia with his valise and scarf.

SANDER

Adam. I don't see our ride.

Just behind him is ADAM GOLDMAN, wheeling a large suitcase and hefting an overnight bag. Adam is: Early thirties, smart, thinks he's smarter.

ADAM

He should be here.

Last in the trio is KATE LLOYD. Kate is: Mid-twenties, pretty, and bright-eyed. She too is burdened with luggage. She reaches out and stops a CARGO HANDLER in hard hat and eyewear.

KATE

We're looking for the Norwegian pilot.

Cargo Handler shrugs, not understanding. Sander looks beyond him, notices a Navy office in the distance, and begins toward it with Kate and Adam following.

INT. US NAVY VXE OFFICES - DAY

CLOSE ON: The logo of a red-eyed, cigarette-smoking, booze-wielding penguin, surrounded by the words: "Air Devron Six / Puckered Penguins."

Pulling back to reveal it's a poster-sized image on the wall of a shack.

Seated at the desk against this wall is BRAXTON CARTER. Carter is: early 30s, rugged, no-nonsense. Carter works studiously on something in his hands.

Behind Carter, his co-pilot DEREK JAMESON reclines at his desk, watching a "Mork & Mindy" rerun that's been recorded on a VHS tape.

Jameson is: African-American, well built, bored out of his mind.

On the wall near Jameson is a photo of MacReady (a young Kurt Russell) standing by his Outpost 31 helicopter. A red magic marker has been used to circle his face, and a handwritten note beside him reads: "Do not accept rides from this man!"

A third man, IAN GRIGGS, watches with Jameson. Griggs is: Of thick Irish stock, red hair and beard.

Their office space is small and cramped. A window looks out onto the tarmac where a massive SEA KING helicopter slumbers. The Sea King is the RV of helos.

JAMESON

(re: Mork & Mindy)

Man, just watching this guy makes me tired.

GRIGGS

Eh, I watch it for the girl.

Reveal what Carter has been working on: A Rubik's Cube. Except, he's not trying to solve it properly. He's used a flathead screwdriver to take it apart and is now assembling the little cube pieces together.

He slaps the last piece in and holds it up. Smiles to himself. Turns around and--

The cube is slapped on the desktop near Jameson.

CARTER
Done. You owe me a beer.

JAMESON
No way. How...

Jameson picks it up in his hand. One of the corner pieces pops out. Jameson crooks his head at Carter.

CARTER
What?

JAMESON
You took it apart.

CARTER
So?

JAMESON
You cheated.

CARTER
I improvised.

Sander steps in from outside, with Kate and Adam in tow. His hair is lightly dusted with snow.

SANDER
Are you the Naval Search and
Rescue team?

Carter blinks at Sander, then looks at the sign on the wall. It reads: "VXE-6 NAVAL SEARCH AND RESCUE."

CARTER
Maybe. Who are you?

SANDER
Doctor Sander Halvorson. The Oslo
Geosciences Division called me
down here. It's imperative we get
to Thule Station.

Jameson keeps watching TV. Griggs gives the scientists a subtle glance.

CARTER
You folks are doctors?

SANDER
I'm a microbiologist from Harvard.
This is my science team.

CARTER

Well, go team. But Thule...that's ambitious.

Kate lets out an exasperated breath. Carter notices. Kate notices him noticing and straightens up.

KATE

Look, it's been a long trip for us already, and we just need someone to take us the last little bit.

Carter's gaze travels from Kate to Sander. Then he stands up and points to a map of Antarctica pinned to one wall.

CARTER

Ma'am. Your 'last little bit' is across sixteen hundred miles of absolutely nothing.

Carter points to Sander, Adam and Kate as he continues:

CARTER (CONT'D)

You weigh maybe two hundred?

(then Adam)

Plus one-seventy, seventy-five

(and Kate)

Plus one-twenty. Add my crew and we get a half-ton of weight and some change.

Carter crosses his arms, still barreling through the basics of the task ahead.

CARTER (CONT'D)

We gotta turn our Sikorsky Sea King into a flying tanker truck, load it with six hundred gallons of fuel plus a reserve, and that's not the hard part.

Carter glances out the window at the WINDOCK flapping near the Sea King.

CARTER (CONT'D)

The trick is the crosswind, which is four knots right now but there's a Herbie coming up the Alley tonight.

Focused back on the three of them.

CARTER (CONT'D)

So if we get favorable winds, we conserve fuel and reach our friends in about ten hours. Otherwise, we fall out of the sky twenty clicks from anything man-made and the cold kills us.

(beat)

Now, you still want to go?

Unnerved by his speech, Adam shakes his head "no". But Sander is out front and nods.

SANDER

We'll take our chances.

Carter glances once more at Kate, then nods at Sander.

CARTER

You got yourself a pilot then.

Jameson perks up.

JAMESON

Wait, what?

Carter zips his flight coat. Griggs shakes his head.

GRIGGS

Shit. He zipped up.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - EVENING

Following the Sea King, flying over barren landscape.

Out on the horizon, the sun begins to set behind the snaggletooth-shaped Transantarctic mountains.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Griggs and Adam sit across from each other on bench seats in the rear compartment of this personnel helo. They're leaning in to talk over the sound of the rotors:

ADAM

--just the transference of matter, you can beam something or someone from one place to another. Like television signals. I bet it's feasible in fifty years.

GRIGGS

Whatever. All I'm saying is, it's not as awesome as light sabers.

ADAM

Oh come on. One is a fantasy weapon that defies physics, the other is transporter technology.

GRIGGS

Man, I don't care how it works. Star Wars just looks cooler.

Nearby, Sander stares out the window. Lost in thought. Still very concerned about something. His leg bouncing nervously as he stares. Sander checks his watch...

Farther up, near the cockpit seats, Kate leans against her bench seat, resting her eyes.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - SUNSET

The farther reaches of this frozen land. Later.

The Sea King whuffs along; a flying workhorse.

The heartbeat Morricone theme returns.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The cockpit. Carter and Jameson flying. All is quiet and dimly lit in the compartment behind them.

Something BUZZES in the cockpit. Carter and Jameson immediately both begin scanning their control panels.

CARTER

It's not fuel.

JAMESON

Intake is fine.

Carter zeroes in on something: The in-dash compass. Its needle swinging wildly.

CARTER

The compass.

JAMESON

Huh. Okay. We, uh, that's strange.

Carter eases back on the stick, slowing.

CARTER
Let McMurdo know we lost nav.

JAMESON
(tapping radio)
McMurdo Tower this is Tuxedo Two
Niner, Mac-Town do you copy?

Beat. Jameson frowns.

JAMESON (CONT'D)
Carter...

CARTER
No signal?

JAMESON
I'm getting some weird
interference.

Jameson hits a radio-switch and we hear a strange warbling noise over the hiss of static. Neither easily identifiable as mechanical nor human.

JAMESON (CONT'D)
Maybe we're in a dead zone?

CARTER
Not out here.

Carter frowns. Considers something.

He turns back and snaps his fingers at Kate, who notices. She dons a headset. Carter holds up three fingers. She switches to that channel.

KATE
Everything okay?

CARTER
Yeah, fine. Hey, what kind of
scientists are you again?

KATE
Doctor Halvorson is a
microbiologist, Adam is more
marine biology. And I'm a
paleontologist.

CARTER
Like dinosaurs.

KATE
Well... their bones.

CARTER

Right. What exactly are these
Norwegians doing out here?

KATE

They're not all Norwegians. But
they're a geoscience survey team.
They found some fossils in the
ice, that's all we know. We're
here to help them identify it.

Carter turns back forward. Conversation is over. He flips
a switch back to Jameson's channel.

JAMESON

What's the plan, boss?

CARTER

(beat, considering)
Can we eyeball it to Thule?

JAMESON

If we get there before dark...
Maybe. Just a maybe.

Carter pushes the stick forward and the Sea King roars.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - EVENING

The darkness of the mountains, then...

The twinkle of lights, nestled among them.

The Sea King banks around on an approach vector.

EXT. THULE STATION - EVENING

Snow whirls into micro-tornadoes as the Sea King lands
and powers down near the facility.

Lights are on, but no sign of anyone at the base. No one
stepping out. An unsettling stillness.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER

Carter and Jameson in the cockpit. Staring out the
windshield.

JAMESON

Where is... anybody.

Carter climbs into the rear compartment.

CARTER

Listen up: Nobody came out to say hello, so Jameson and I are going in first. Griggs: Refuel us, then get to work on navigation.

Griggs nods.

Sander, Adam, and Kate wait for the Navy men to lead the way.

EXT. THULE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Boots landing on snow.

Carter and Jameson move with intent from the Sea King to the main door of Thule Station, noted by the stencil marking in Norwegian.

Sander, Adam, and Kate follow at a discreet distance.

Carter and Jameson stand to either side of the door.

Carter knocks. Waits. No answer.
He knocks again. Then tries the door.

It opens, and we FOLLOW them in...

INT. THULE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Inside the Extreme Cold-weather (ECW) changing room.
Heavy winter gear hang on hooks.

MUSIC blares loudly from somewhere inside, echoing throughout the space.

Carter and Jameson shut the door behind them and look around. Still no sign of anyone.

CARTER

(calling)
Hello?

No response. They make their way down the hall.

The rest of the group stays behind in the ECW Room.

Carter passes an open bunk room. Beds made. Neat and orderly. No sign of anyone.

Jameson rounds the corner.

More doors down this length of hall.

Peering into another room: The radio room. No one at the communications desk. No sign of people either.

Suddenly, from the doorway to the kitchen, a Norwegian MAN steps into the hall, holding a bowl of cereal close to his face. This is OLAN. Early 30s. Clean-shaven.

Olan looks up from his cereal, spoon poised to shovel more frosted flakes into his mouth.

He and Carter have made eye contact.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Hey. We knocked.

In a flash, Olan DROPS his cereal bowl and runs as fast as he can down the hall--

The cereal bowl shatters on the floor, milk and cereal scattering like buckshot--

JAMESON

The fuck?

Olan reaches a door near the end and pushes inside--

Then SLAMS the door, and we hear something heavy LOCK into place behind the door.

Carter and Jameson trade looks of complete confusion.

SHOUTING in Norwegian from the room where Olan went. Then a second VOICE mingles with his, also in Norwegian. Also from within the locked room. MUSIC cuts off.

Carter goes to the door--

It's marked LAB, in large stencils.

There is a small porthole-like window mounted into it. He can see Olan and LARS (40s, bearded, focused), another Norwegian, inside.

CARTER

Hey hey hey! Calm down-- we're search and rescue!

Lars and Olan glare at Carter and then--

A small metal door slides SHUT over the porthole window.

JAMESON

They went toasty.

CARTER

Cabin fever.

Sander approaches the door now, and Carter steps back to give him room.

Sander calls out in Norwegian.

Lars asks something back in Norwegian.

SANDER

Doctor Sander Halvorson.

Lars opens the door and steps out. Olan stays in the lab.

Kate and Adam join Sander, further distancing Carter and Jameson.

Sander and Lars continue to chat in Norwegian.

SANDER (CONT'D)

(to Carter)

It's okay, they were just spooked.

CARTER

Where is the rest of the crew?

SANDER

At the dig site. They're fine, everyone's fine.

Sander is visibly relieved. They can tell he was more worried than he had let on.

CARTER

Right, yeah. Look, I need to call in our status to McMurdo--

(at Lars)

Where is your radio room?

LARS

Henrik!

From another room, a third Norwegian steps into the hall. This is HENRIK (lanky, tall, curly hair). Henrik is dressed in long underwear with a sleeper's mask pulled up on his forehead.

HENRIK

Radio is broken.

Carter pulls out his screwdriver-- the one he used to "fix" the Rubik's Cube.

CARTER

I'm pretty mechanical.

Henrik shrugs and gestures for them to follow.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Kate stands off to the side.

Reverse angle: to reveal the others in the room getting used to each other. Lars stays by the door. Adam doesn't quite know what to do.

Olan and Sander exchange words in Norwegian.

SANDER

Show me.

Olan nods and leads him to another door on the other side of the Lab. One without a window. Heavy, perhaps metal.

Unsure of what else to do, Kate and Adam follow INTO

A STORAGE ROOM lower than the Lab.

ADAM

What is... that?

Reveal a large BLOCK OF ICE in the center of the room. Heat lamps dangle over it, pointed down at the center, but they haven't yet been turned on.

Something is inside the ice. Some DARK SHAPE.

It looks humanoid, yet not human. Larger. Curled up. Yet the hint of a head, and arms.

Closing in... The ice obscures detail. The blurry form encased inside seems misshapen. An elongated human.

Most certainly NOT a dinosaur.

Sander follows Olan down to the ice block.

SANDER

Good. Still well preserved.

Adam and Kate venture down next. Adam's expression: Pure awe and excitement. Kate's: suspicion.

ADAM

Oh my god... It's incredible...

Kate gets closer, mesmerized by the form in the ice. It may be nothing more than shape and shadow, but it's still quite intimidating.

SANDER

(to Olan)

Where is Edvard? At the site?

Kate's attention shifts from the ice to Sander. Disconcerted.

OLAN

Yes.

SANDER

Take us there. But first--

(in Norwegian)

Turn on the lamps.

Olan trades looks with Sander, Kate, and Adam. Then he reaches for the heat-lamp array and clicks them on.

Sander is already in motion, back for the door.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - DUSK

Opening on: Exposed wiring, electronics. A panel of controls and gauges has been pulled off the face of the cockpit.

Jameson and Griggs sit in the pilot and co-pilot seats. Griggs shines a light inside.

GRIGGS

I don't know... Doesn't look like a hardware problem...

JAMESON

What about the wiring here?

Griggs slaps Jameson's hand from the exposed panel.

GRIGGS

Don't touch that. Look, I'm saying it doesn't look broken. I can't fix what isn't broken.

Carter steps in from the back and leans between them.

CARTER

Their radio is out, too. Which is weird. Talk to me about the nav. Is there a workaround?

GRIGGS

Maybe.

Through the cockpit window:

Sander, Kate, and Adam follow Olan to a garage.

GRIGGS (CONT'D)

Where are they going?

CARTER

Who cares? Just keep working on
the nav. Jameson, you're with me.Carter and Jameson climb out. Carter starts to shut the
cockpit door.

GRIGGS

Where are you two going?

CARTER

Where it's warmer. Fuckin'
freezing out here.

GRIGGS

Thanks a lot you--

OUTSIDE, Carter shuts the door just before he can hear
Griggs' last word, "assholes!"

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DUSK

Aerial shot of the great white nothing.

Gliding down to find: The Spryte. A yellow truck built
like a Hummer but with tank treads in place of tires.The Spryte's headlights bounce as it hurries across.
Passing flags planted into the ground.

INT. SPRYTE - CONTINUOUS

Olan, behind the wheel. Sander rides shotgun. In back are
Kate and Adam. Adam stares ahead, agog.

All is quiet for a while. Then:

ADAM

I uh... I'm really having a hard
time processing what we just saw.

SANDER

Try living with that image for six days.

Kate's reaction is just the opposite. Coolly, to Sander:

KATE

You knew. And you didn't tell us.

Sander meets her gaze.

SANDER

I told you enough to get you here.

KATE

That's no dinosaur. Why bring me?

SANDER

I needed to be sure. And, because I trust you.

KATE

If you trusted me, you should have told me the truth.

SANDER

Noted.

ADAM

Hey, hey-- Kate, look at it this way. You're going to be the most famous Ph.D. candidate in the history of science.

OLAN

We're here.

Everyone leans forward and stares out the windshield.

Through the light snow flurry a vision: The same crevasse as seen in the opening, now with a few tents and vehicles surrounding it.

21 EXT. SPRYTE - CONTINUOUS

21

On Sander, getting out of the Spryte. Olan steps out on the driver's side.

EDVARD (O.S.)

Sander!

Approaching Sander is EDVARD WOLNER. Edvard is: mid-forties, avuncular. Edvard raises his goggles to see his friend with bare eyes.

Following him is JULIETTE (French, early thirties, wearing a heavy coat with the bright logo of the Oslo Geosciences Academy on it).

The two men embrace warmly. A reunion.

EDVARD (CONT'D)
(in Norwegian)
You made it.

They pull back, both smiling broadly.

SANDER
(in Norwegian)
Of course, of course. Wasn't easy.
Had to hitch a ride with the Navy.

EDVARD
(Norwegian)
US military?

SANDER
(Norwegian)
Don't worry, they will be gone by
the time we get back.

EDVARD
(Norwegian)
Did you see it? The specimen?

Sander smiles and nods.

SANDER
You were right to call me.

Sander finally notices Juliette.

EDVARD
This is Juliette, one of the
geologists who found the site.

JULIETTE
Edvard speaks highly of you.

Sander nods and smiles like he's saying, "I know."

Kate and Adam have gotten out and approach from behind Sander, tentative. Edvard sees them. Out of courtesy, he switches to English.

EDVARD
And this is your team?

SANDER

Oh-- yes, yes. Kate Lloyd, on loan from Stanford Paleontology, and my assistant Adam Goldman.

EDVARD

The rest of my crew is below right now. We were about to go inside.

Sander's eyes twinkle. Adam is first to ask it:

ADAM

Inside?

INT. CREVASSE TUNNEL -- MOMENTS LATER

A deep blue glow emanates from the ice as the work lights offer reflection. The tunnel levels out as the group descends, using a guide rope to negotiate the steep path.

The tunnel widens to a larger ice cave..

Everybody stops and holds their breath. From their elevated vantage, they can look out across the cavernous space and see:

A METALLIC DISC, TWO FOOTBALL FIELDS IN SIZE, PARTIALLY BURIED IN THE ICE.

Our crew is speechless. This is obviously a space ship. There is no other explanation.

Edvard chuckles a bit.

EDVARD

Impressive don't you think?

SANDER

Oh my god.

EDVARD

Let me introduce you to the rest of the crew.

Standing here are three more of Edvard's crew. Two crews shaking hands.

- JONAS. Norwegian. Holding a large still-photo camera. The team's documentarian.

- LEON. Pushing forty. German. Glasses. Tinkering with a Geiger counter, wearing a repelling harness.

- PEDER. Another Norwegian. Bodybuilder's frame, very angular jawline. Cigarette stabbed between his lips.

Edvard leads the group to a spot where the ice path meets the surface of the vessel. The ship is buried at an angle, having settled awkwardly in the ice pack. Edward steps onto the ship. Sanders pauses dramatically before following. The surface of the ship makes a strange metallic sound with each footfall. Walking on the slanted surface is not easy and the group is careful to maintain their balance.

Kate is taking it all in. Ahead she sees a protrusion on the ship.

A round hatch hangs open.

Beat as everyone stares at the hatch. Sander and Adam are both awestruck. Kate looks a little concerned.

EDVARD (CONT'D)

Took us a full week to figure out how to open it. Radios stopped working the moment we did.

Sander asks Edvard in Norwegian:

SANDER

(in Norwegian)
Have you been inside?

EDVARD

(in Norwegian)
Just to get readings. Nominal trace radiation. The G-SAT didn't pick up any airborne toxins.

Leon tosses some harnesses on the ground at Adam's feet.

On Kate, even more concerned. Juliette steps close to Kate and speaks softly:

JULIETTE

Your boss asked if we have been down. The answer: only once. To test the air inside.

Kate is relieved for the translation and the new ally.

KATE

And?

Juliette straps on a repelling harness and pauses before answering.

JULIETTE

No one has died yet.

EXT./INT. ALIEN SHIP - NIGHT

On Leon, repelling from the hatch into the vessel below. Following him as he lands among two burning signal flares. A box of gear sits on the floor nearby.

Leon disconnects and steps away for the next person to repel. Sander steps up. Wanting to be the pioneer.

Kate steps up last, with Jonas helping her use the zip line to the floor of the ship below.

Following Kate down...

Inside THE SHIP.

Juliette remains up top. The team inside now is: Jonas, Edvard, Leon, Sander, Adam, and Kate.

Several of them activate flashlights and shine them to the edges of the oval-shaped chamber. There appear to be no right angles here. Everything slopes up and around like the inside of an egg. The walls don't shine like metal. No sign of seams or separate pieces.

Edvard speaks. But when he does, his voice sounds strange. Hollow, and washed-out, as if the acoustics of the room were altering it. A very slight delay between their mouth moving and their voice.

EDVARD

This is as far as we've been.

Everyone's breath is visible in the crisp air.

The place is so quiet; so inexplicably silent.

Two round tunnels lead off into pitch darkness from this room. Even the flashlights don't reach very far.

Sander moves for the left tunnel.

The others follow.

INT. THULE STATION STORAGE ROOM - THAT MOMENT

The room is quiet save for the sound of the heat lamps over the block of ice.

Rivulets of water snake down the sides of the block.

It's melting faster now.

Hold on the ice a moment, the vague alien shape frozen beneath...

INT. ALIEN SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

In the tunnel, where it winds its way around a bend.

Jonas occasionally takes flash photography inside the ship. The flashes react weirdly in this space, as if the light emitted from the bulb were like ripples of water.

JONAS

Does everyone see that...?

Sander leads the way. His beam finds a round, portal-like doorway. Circular.

Kate's light finds another, across from it. Approaching one... It seems like a small room. Furnishings molded to the walls and floor. But no personal items. No trinkets or gadgets.

Kate crouches down. Notices something with the floor:

It's blackened. Carbon scoring. The damage widens at the doorway, suggesting something shot flame from the hallway into the small chamber.

A pile of ash rests on the floor at the end of the scorch marks. Long since decomposed, whatever it was.

Jonas bends down near Kate. Shines his light on the scene with hers. Nods. In a thick Norwegian accent:

JONAS (CONT'D)

Looks like there was a fire.

More carbon scoring on the floor... Leading them to the next room. Flashlights all converging on the entry as they file in...

INT. ALIEN HIBERNAL CHAMBERS - MOMENTS LATER

As Sander and the others step into this room, their faces go slack with awe. Flashlight beams lance out into the vastness of this chamber...

Pulling back to reveal MASSIVE, EGG-LIKE PODS hanging from the ceiling above them. The pods resemble enormous frosted Christmas tree bulbs, filled with a long-since frozen fluid.

Pulling back more... Revealing ROW AFTER ROW of them...

Dozens... Hundreds...

This room must span the entire diameter of the ship...

At the entry, Leon cracks a small signal flare and drops it at his feet.

The wind has crept into this room from the exterior hatch. It HOWLS in unnatural tones.

In the otherwise tomb-like quiet, the group advances past the hanging pods. Shining lights into them, trying to get a glimpse of what's inside.

The glass-like surface is too frosted to see in. At best, there are hints of SHAPES or SHADOWS inside. Frozen.

ADAM

Looks like they were collecting something...

ON SANDER, who crouches under one pod. It's been shattered open. Debris on the floor.

He shines his light up inside...

Deep CLAW MARKS have raked through the glass-like walls in various directions.

SANDER

Whatever was in this one, got out.

Adam turns his attention to the other pods.

Jonas's light reveals more round scorch marks on the floor nearby...

JONAS

More carbon scoring here. All over the place, really. A mess.

On Kate, figuring it out in her head.

KATE

(sotto)
More like a crime scene...

Kate's flashlight beam follows a wall...

More scorch marks and bloated warping on the otherwise smooth surface of the wall.

Adam walks to a pod covered with a layer of frost. He wipes off the frost with his sleeve and aims his flashlight at the pod. It is too milky to see inside. He bends forward, leans his forearms on the pod's surface as suddenly more snow dust falls on his shoulders.

Then a terrifying, earsplitting cracking sound... like a ship ramming an iceberg ... a slow but overwhelming sound of metal screeching against ice. The ship trembles and shifts. No one moves ... Snow dust falls from everywhere. Is the ship sliding?

Then just as suddenly the sound stops. Everyone remains perfectly still. Was this it? Or is there more. Adam carefully raises his hand, like saying it wasn't me ... then ...

EDVARD

I think we should go.

INT. THULE STATION KITCHEN - NIGHT

A refrigerator door opens to reveal Scandinavian soda, mysterious food in Tupperware containers, and jars of some unknown fluid, topped with tinfoil.

Carter reaches in and pulls out a jar. Frowning in apparent disgust.

CARTER

Doesn't anyone here drink beer?

JAMESON

I don't get it. What's in the lab?

Carter shrugs. Puts the jar back inside.

CARTER

Check on Tweedle-dee and Tweedle-dum again.

Jameson moves to the open door. Leans out, peers around a corner---

JAMESON'S POV: Henrik and Lars are seated on a sofa right in front of the door to the Lab.

They're guarding it stoically. Henrik looks our way--

ON CARTER, curious.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Couch?

Jameson steps back in, nodding.

JAMESON

Couch.

Carter shakes his head. Behind him, a window looks out at the slumbering Sea King.

Suddenly a FIGURE is at the window hitting it with a BOOM! Carter jumps--

GRIGGS

Carter!

It's Griggs. Holding a wrench.

Carter shouts at him through the glass.

CARTER

You fix the compass?

Griggs shakes his head.

GRIGGS

It's useless! I wanna come back in, can I come back in?

CARTER

Figure out a way to fly that bird, then you can come in!

Griggs mutters an obscenity, flips off Carter, and heads back for the Sea King.

Jameson chuckles. Carter looks his way.

CARTER (CONT'D)

You wanna help him?

Jameson immediately stops chuckling.

A loud, repetitive BOOMING from elsewhere in the facility echoes into the office. Carter looks back to see if it's Griggs again-- but Griggs is gone.

The BOOMING sounds like someone bashing against a door.

JAMESON

What the hell are they doing now?

The two men go back to the entry and peer out--

DOWN THE HALL, Lars and Henrik are off the couch and staring at the door.

BOOM. BOOM.

Something massive inside, slamming against walls.
Breaking things in the lab. Then the door SHUDDERS.

Lars and Henrik trade looks.

CARTER

What's in there?!

The Norwegians look back at Jameson and Carter, and the panic on their faces suggests Jameson really doesn't want to know the answer to that question.

Then: A terrible, alien SCREECH. Bestial. Big.

Followed by a CRUNCH. The banging has suddenly stopped. And then the corrugated metal ROOF reverberates as if something heavy were crossing it at great speed.

Above them-- the ceiling SHUDDERS as large DENTS crumple inward in a dotted line, marking the heavy footfall of the thing overhead as it tears across the roof.

JAMESON

(sotto)

You gotta be fucking kidding me.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - MOMENTS LATER

On Lars, opening the door to the Lab, peering inside...

FOLLOWING as he moves to the open storage room door...

REVEALING a HOLE in the ceiling here. A few errant snowflakes drift down into the lab.

The ice block is EMPTY.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - NIGHT

High overhead angle on the small convoy of Norwegian treaded vehicles, making its way back to base under canopy of night.

INT. SPRYTE - CONTINUOUS

Edvard and Sander in the front of one Spryte. Kate and Adam again relegated to the back seat. Sander and Edvard are in the middle of a discussion.

EDVARD

This is the only discovery they'll remember in a thousand years.

SANDER

You'll be known as the man who discovered it.

EDVARD

And you, my friend, will be the man who explained it to the world.

Sander and Edvard trade smiles.

In the back seat, Adam bounces excitedly. He feels associated with this discovery. Next to him, Kate is lost in thought.

Thule Station looms ahead in the headlights. And: A FIGURE in full winter gear approaches them, waving them down. As he approaches, it's clear: It's CARTER.

EXT. SPRYTE - CONTINUOUS

On Sander, stepping out of the Spryte to face Carter.

Carter gets in his face.

CARTER

I want a fucking explanation.

INT. THULE STATION STORAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The empty block of ice sits center-stage. Everyone stands around it. Some of the Norwegian team is busy in motion -- grabbing flashlights and donning heavier coats.

On Carter, gesturing at Edvard.

CARTER

So, let me get this right.

Kate stares at the empty ice block. And up at the hole in the ceiling above them.

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

You guys found an alien in the ice. It's been asleep for who knows how long. You thawed it out and it woke up. Now it's running around outside. Is that what you're telling me?

Griggs and Jameson wait near Carter.

Edvard lets out a breath.

Griggs cracks a smile. Sounds like bullshit to him.

Sander speaks to the group, ignoring Carter.

SANDER

The creature has likely been in some form of hibernation, and is probably disoriented, sluggish, and afraid. Our first order is locating it. Do not engage it.

JAMESON

What exactly are we looking for? I mean... How big is it?

EDVARD

Henrik: Get the dogs.

EXT. THULE STATION - NIGHT

Flashlight beams bouncing over snow. Following a set of tracks along the building. The group has split.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF THE FACILITY - NIGHT

Kate, Adam, and COLIN march out from the building. Crunching through snow in the dark. Colin is: British, around forty, quirky. The Englishman's Paul Giamatti.

Adam tries to bundle himself up more against the weather, perpetually cold.

ADAM

This is ridiculous.

COLIN

Par for the course out here, if you ask me.

ADAM

What?

COLIN

I'd be careful who to trust out here. You know, they didn't call your boss right away. Edvard and the other Norwegians kept going off, having closed-door meetings...

ADAM

So? What are you saying?

Colin stop and shines his light on Adam. Adam squints.

COLIN

They're sitting on a bloody UFO
out there. Hell, they probably
sabotaged my radio themselves.
Loose lips, you know.

(at Kate)

Hey, sweetheart--

Kate pauses in her searching and wheels on Colin.

COLIN (CONT'D)

How about we let someone else find
this thing, ah?

INT. GARAGE SHED - NIGHT

The structure is as big as an oil change facility, but
poorly lit and crowded with gear.

The two Spryte trucks are parked here. One garage roll-
top door still partly open.

Henrik enters. Alone. From somewhere inside, the sound of
his dogs BARKING.

HENRIK

All right, girls.

He moves between the two parked Sprytes.

Reveal THREE HUSKIES in a kennel near the large dogsleds.
They bark and pace nervously.

HENRIK (CONT'D)

Shh shh, come on now.

The dogs settle somewhat at Henrik's presence. He opens
the kennel door--

And the huskies escape, fleeing under the roll-top door.

HENRIK (CONT'D)

Hey!

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

The huskies, making a dash across the Thule Station
compound. Right for the generator building.

ANGLE ON CARTER AND JAMESON, at another corner of the compound. They hear the barking through the wind...

Turning and pointing their flashlights into the dark in time to see the huskies enter the generator building--

JAMESON

That can't be good.

Carter and Jameson hurry for the building, passing between two structures as they go--

ANGLE ON KATE'S GROUP, trying to zero in on the sound of the dogs.

Kate catches sight of Carter and Jameson passing between the buildings.

Everyone with her sees their determined pace, and hurries to catch up with them.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shelves of equipment, and two massive motorized generators chugging loudly behind a fence-wall. This room has a small antechamber before entering the room with the generator gear.

The dogs go right for the generator room.

Tucked between the two massive generators, behind the fence... something moves. Curled on the floor. Diminutive. Wheezing. Hidden in the dark. It's impossible to see much of it.

The dogs enter. And the lead husky barks aggressively.

The shape in the darkness shrinks down further.

The huskies advance to the open fence-door--

And tentacles LASH OUT, whip-fast, stabbing the first two dogs in the throat, cutting off their barks--

The third husky turns around to flee but another tentacle STABS into its hind leg--

The dogs collapse, WHINING and twitching--

Carter steps in from outside, sweeping with his flashlight beam--

The light landing on THE HUSKIES as they are dragged toward the thing in the dark, past the fence...

CARTER

Son of a...

The light beam travels up to the sickly flesh of the THING against the wall, as it RISES from its crouch--

Henrik enters and sees where Jameson's and Carter's lights are pointed--

HENRIK

No!

He moves as if to save the dogs.

Kate, Sander, Peder, and Adam arrive behind Carter in time to see:

CARTER

Grab him!

Jameson reaches out to snag Henrik by the collar but it's too late-- Henrik enters the generator enclosure and--

A tentacle STABS through his chest.

Henrik stands rigid at the entry, in shock--

Teeth-like prongs flex at the end of the tentacle poking out his back, and then it RETRACTS, tearing out a chunk of Henrik with it.

Henrik collapses to the floor.

Carter quickly pulls his handgun. Peder steps up next to him with the rifle.

Olan shouts, panicked:

OLAN

Henrik!

Carter FIRES through the grating of the fence-wall.

The gunshots are deafening in this space. Kate and the others have to hold their ears.

FLESH tears in a flash--quick glimpse of the Thing as it's shot point-blank, but--

ANGLE ON THE FLOOR, as the spent bullets fall by its feet. Passing right through it.

SANDER

Stop!

Dog-Thing grows now, standing taller to intimidate--

It's still too dark to tell how big it is, or even what its true shape is--

JAMESON

The guns don't do shit!

Carter sees a five-gallon FUEL CANISTER at the entry.

CARTER

Tip that over!

Jameson positions himself and then kicks it over--

Kerosene SPLASHES onto the creature and spills onto the floor, the canister itself falling on one of the dogs.

Peder sees it and yells over his shoulder--

PEDER

Get the fire extinguishers!

Carter aims his handgun at the fuel on the concrete--

SANDER

Wait! NO!

BLAM BLAM! Sparks on the second shot catch the fuel on fire. The Thing burns-- Screeching a hideous sound--

The dogs WAIL, still fused with the creature. It curls up in the corner, flames consuming it.

Lars and Colin enter, carrying extinguishers. The two men choke out the fire.

On Kate, still staring at the creature. Both horrified yet fascinated.

Olan hovers over Henrik's corpse. In shock.

OLAN

Henrik...

Colin sees it and pulls Olan away.

Olan stumbles out of the generator room, in shock. He doubles over around the corner and vomits onto the snow.

Sander steps forward, tentative. Crouching to inspect the now-burned Thing.

The monster still burns in one or two spots. Unmoving.

Sander sneers back at Carter.

SANDER
You killed it.

CARTER
You're welcome.

One of the generator motors coughs and shuts down.

EXT. THULE STATION - NIGHT

A bird's-eye angle on the base.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - NIGHT

A lot of the group is here. Only a few are missing.

Among the Norwegians, we have: Edvard, Lars, Peder, Juliette, and Colin. It's clear that they have been hit hard by the death of one of their own.

Then there is the research team of Sander, Kate, and Adam, plus Carter.

Sander speaks to the group after a tentative silence.

SANDER
We are all... shocked at what happened to Henrik. I understand he was friend to many here at the camp. But, there are things that must be done soon or else we miss a vital window of opportunity.
(beat)
We need to consider an autopsy.

JULIETTE
Autopsy? You want to cut Henrik open?

SANDER
Not Henrik. The creature. We need to know as much about it as we can, to understand why, and how, it acted the way it did.

CARTER
You don't need to carve it up to know why it killed the dog handler. We all saw it.

SANDER

You can't trust what you saw. For all we know, the alien was trying to communicate with Henrik. Or it reacted defensively. We must understand its biology.

(to Edvard)

Let me do my job, Edvard. It's why you brought me down here.

CARTER

Yeah, well I gotta do my job now.

SANDER

What is that, some kind of threat?

CARTER

Take it however you want, but I am going back to McMurdo and reporting this mess. You got maybe three days before your whole camp is under investigation.

(beat)

Henrik's body goes back, too. So say your last words.

Carter makes for the door.

Sander turns toward Edvard to look for support. They see the writing on the wall with Carter's return to McMurdo.

SANDER

We must examine the creature now. While we still have it in our possession.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carter enters.

Griggs is checking on a pale, sweaty Olan near the pool table. Olan breathes shallowly as Griggs holds a stethoscope to his chest.

Jameson absently rolls stripes and solids into pockets. Waiting for Carter's arrival. Soon as he sees Carter:

JAMESON

Man, what the FUCK was that thing? Did they say?

CARTER

They don't really know.

JAMESON

Where did it come from?

CARTER

Outer space, if you believe them.
We go up at first light. With or
without nav.

GRIGGS

I don't know if we have that long.
Carter, uh--

(pulls Carter away
from Olan)

This guy needs hospital care. He's
got cardiac arrhythmia, been in
shock since the attack.

Jameson joins in to remind Carter what he's been telling
Griggs.

JAMESON

We can't lift off in the dark
without a compass.

GRIGGS

(to Carter, urgently)
He doesn't have much time. If
there's a chance we can fly...

Carter glances over at Olan. Olan looks sickly.

Jameson shakes his head slowly. Don't do it, Carter.

CARTER

I'm not risking it. Do what you
can to stabilize him for now.
We'll take him with us at dawn.

Griggs looks back to Olan.

On Olan, panicked. Breathing more quickly now.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - NIGHT

Close on: A tarp, being unveiled to reveal the corpse of
the DOG-THING on the exam table. He looks for a way to
approach it. Adam stands nearby with a legal pad and pen,
ready to annotate Sander's autopsy.

The corpse resembles a pile of charred leather with plate-
like segments of sealskin over its torso and head. The
dogs are still conjoined and fused to the creature, as if
its own arms were leashes. One dog is unrecognizable.

SANDER

Is this all of it?

ADAM

The dogs, too. They're, uh,
attached. Somehow.

Kate watches from the other side of the lab. Prepping various surgical tools for Sander to use, wearing surgical gloves herself. She glances over at the body.

SANDER

Kate, join in. Take a look at these fused ligaments between the husky and the creature. The bone structure is... unique.

KATE

They're fused together?

She approaches. Begins to cautiously examine some exposed bone on the burnt corpse. Kate was Sander's "canary" as it were; now that she's touched it, he ventures in with his scalpel.

SANDER

Incredible.

ADAM

What?

SANDER

It seems it wasn't consuming the dogs, it was absorbing them.

Kate exposes more bone from the alien creature.

KATE

Sander... Look at this.

Sander joins Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)

This is alien bone structure, and over here-- that's canine. But these here? In between? Hybrid. Like it was learning what the huskies were. On a genetic level.

ADAM

For what purpose?

KATE

I don't know. Maybe to copy them?

SANDER

Or just to better adapt to its new environment. We can't tell much from just a corpse.

Close on the malformed face of the dog.

Kate shakes her head at the sight of it. She's beginning to get very concerned about something.

EXT. THULE STATION - PRE-DAWN

Peder and Lars carry Henrik's body in a body-bag.

Carter leads the way for them. Opens the rear door to the Sea King. The men carry it inside and set it gently on the floor by the paramedic gear.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Lars takes off his ballcap and holds it at his chest. Tucks his chin down in a quick and silent prayer.

Peder sees him doing this and shakes his head but waits for Lars to finish. He readies a cigarette while he waits, slapping the pack in his palm.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Lars and Peder step out. Peder slides the door shut. The two men regard Carter a moment, puzzled...

Carter looks out at the faint light where the sun will soon peer over the horizon.

It's nearly time to leave.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - PRE-DAWN

Sander stands at the microscope station. Fascinated.

Kate keeps focused on the corpse, exhausted but awake. Adam transcribes for Sander.

Kate notices something on the table and picks up a metal tray. Spent bullets rattle around inside.

KATE

Where were these?

ADAM

On the floor. The bullets had been regurgitated from the creature. Spit out from its body.

SANDER

It rejects inorganic material. Suggesting phenotypic plasticity. Amazing.

Adam keeps up with the notepad as best he can. Sander stares back into the microscope.

SANDER (CONT'D)

The transformative power of this creature... Incredible. Down to its own blood.

Kate stares at the blood on her surgical gloves with new concern. She pulls them off and discards them on the exam table by the creature.

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

On Kate, stepping out of the Med Lab, making her way down the hall. Taking off her aspirator mask.

CARTER (O.S.)

Kate.

Carter catches her in the hall. She's startled, then relieved it's Carter.

KATE

Hey.

CARTER

We're leaving now. But if the weather holds up, I'll be back with help in a few days.

KATE

Okay. Good luck.

Carter can't just let it go at that.

CARTER

You understand, the Norwegians are gonna lose control of the whole lab. This place is about to get very popular.

KATE

At this point...

(breath)

I think that's the best plan.

Beat. Carter didn't expect her to be in agreement.

CARTER

I'm talking men with guns.

KATE

I know.

(beat)

I can't go with you, Carter. I wish I could but... I still have work to do.

Carter sees the worry in her eyes. He knows something more is going on with her; something she won't say.

He doesn't press her.

CARTER

Yeah. So do I.

He turns to go.

Kate rubs her hands over her face, utterly exhausted.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - DAWN

Angle on Henrik's body bag, in the Sea King.

Drifting up and over to find Olan, still pale and sweaty. In a bench seat nearby.

Olan regards the body bag with fear and dread.

Griggs sits across from Olan. Eyeing him carefully.

INT. COCKPIT

Carter and Jameson power up the Sea King.

Through the windshield, Carter sees Edvard step outside from the main building. Edvard stands and watches them prepare to leave.

JAMESON

Rotors at full.

CARTER

Let's get out of here.

EXT. THULE STATION - DAWN

The massive helicopter lifts off.

INT. THULE STATION RESTROOM - THAT MOMENT

Kate washes her face.

She stares at her reflection in the mirror. Lack of sleep, stress, bearing witness to an alien creature attack and devour dogs and kill a man... all of it shows on her face. She needs sleep.

Kate grabs for the hand towel but it slips off its ring and hits the floor.

She bends down to pick it up...

Something catches her attention. On the floor.

Four SHINY METAL BITS. Oddly shaped. Spotted with blood.

Kate picks them up and examines them under the light. At first she doesn't know what they are. Then: A look of recognition. Then shock.

Staring at her reflection, she leans close to the mirror and opens her mouth.

The shape of the metal bits is like her silver FILLINGS in her mouth. These are from someone's teeth.

KATE

Oh, god...

She turns toward the door of the restroom but something else catches her eye--

The shower. Its curtain pulled close. Something spattered on its inner lining.

Slowly, Kate approaches the shower curtain...

The shadowy form inside... is it a stain, or a person?

A breath, then Kate YANKS it open to reveal--

BLOOD. Painted and misted on the inside of the shower.

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kate runs full-tilt down the hall, boots on wood planks stomping as she goes--

Juliette peers out of her bunk room as Kate hauls past--

EXT. THULE STATION - THAT MOMENT

The Sea King, lifting off. Angling up.

Edvard stands by the door, watching it take off.

Kate runs out, not fully dressed in cold-weather gear. Immediately she starts waving down the helicopter.

KATE

CARTER! WAIT!

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Carter doesn't see Kate. He pulls up on the stick--

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

The Sea King begins rotating to bank away from the camp.

Kate keeps waving her arms.

KATE

Come on...

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Carter's POV: Kate, flagging him down. She already looks tiny from a hundred feet up. Getting farther away.

CARTER

(into headset)

Hang on-- hold up.

JAMESON

(in headset)

What what.

Carter levels out the Sea King.

IN THE REAR COMPARTMENT, Griggs speaks into his headset.

GRIGGS
Why are we stopping?

CARTER (O.S.)
She's flagging us down.

On Olan, panicked even more than usual.

OLAN
What's going on?

NEARBY, the wrapped body of Henrik bumps against the bench seat, still in its body-bag.

IN THE COCKPIT, Carter debates whether or not to land. Looking back down at Kate.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

On Kate, still flagging them down.

EDVARD
What is it?

KATE
(calling)
CARTER!

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Carter makes a snap decision.

CARTER
Fuck it. We're landing.
(over the speaker)
Griggs, we're taking her back.

He jams the stick down and the Sea King tucks its chin down for a quick descent.

IN THE REAR COMPARTMENT, Griggs grabs a stirrup to hold steady as the helicopter drops. The sound of the rotors vibrate the benches and the gear strapped to the wall.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter arcs back around to land.

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

In the rear compartment, Griggs takes his headset off.

Olan looks confused, approaching scared.

OLAN

Why are we landing? I need to get
to hospital right away, yes?

Griggs holds his hands up to try and calm Olan.

GRIGGS

It's gonna be fine, nothing to
worry about.

Olan looks back up at Griggs, about to form another plea
to the American, when his eyes go wide...

ON GRIGGS again, as a trickle of blood runs down from his
forehead along the bridge of his nose. His eyes roll up
into his head. His mouth opens...

And his head SPLITS IN TWO, like his body were unzipping
itself--

TEARING his flightsuit, revealing not human organs
beneath but a mass of reddish, coiled TENTACLES--

OLAN starts screaming--

OLAN

HEY! HELP! BACK HERE!

But the sound of the helo drowns out his shouts.

Immediately Olan starts tugging at the buckle to his seat
harness, fumbling with the straps--

ON GRIGGS as the tentacles practically EXPLODE from the
gap between the two separated halves of Griggs's body--

ENSNARING and STABBING into Olan--

Close on Olan's face as the tentacles burrow into his
cheek, his eyes, mouth and chin--

ANGLE ON the rear compartment where Griggs on one end
still sits braced and the ropes of bloody tentacles
extend across from his body to Olan sitting opposite.

Beyond, in the cockpit, Carter and Jameson are still
focused on landing, unaware of the gruesome scene behind
them.

The sound in the helo is almost completely muffled and
we're now listening in the Sea King headsets, hearing
what Carter and Jameson can (or can't) hear.

JAMESON
Be careful. Big snow drift
picking up on the right.

Carter turns his head to respond to Jameson--

CARTER'S POV: Blood spatter dots the back of Jameson's
helmet, along with part of the co-pilot seat.

Jameson turns slightly to give Carter a crooked smile...

CLOSE ON the reflection in Jameson's visor--

Revealing GRIGGS-THING in the back, tearing into Olan--

Blood spurting everywhere in the rear compartment--

CARTER
HOLY SHIT--

Carter whips his head around and Jameson does the same
just as Olan is HURLED into the cockpit, bashing against
both the men and--

ON THE ALTITUDE STICK as Jameson's arm jams against it.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

On Kate and Edvard, watching the helicopter--

It lists and spins lazily, veering away from camp--

KATE
Something's wrong.

The helicopter continues to veer off course, up and
toward the nearby mountains--

INT. SEA KING HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

On Carter in the cockpit, trying to land--

CARTER
Get off the stick!

But Jameson is out cold in the co-pilot seat--

Carter yanks the stick, pulling up hard--

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Back with Kate and Edvard, watching the Sea King lift, turn, and arc in a collision course for the mountain just beyond the camp...

It seems Carter manages to get enough control at the last moment to avoid crashing into the cliff-side but then...

The helo dips just over the rocks and on the other side of the peak...

A beat passes, then--

A massive firecloud erupts over the top of the cliffside and, moments later, the sound of the massive explosion reaches the station.

EDVARD

Jesus...

Kate holds her hand over her mouth. In shock.

WIDE ANGLE on the camp with the pillar of smoke starting to rise behind the mountain behind it, then...

Back on Kate.

KATE

What can we do... Can we get to them? Up there?

EDVARD

Not by ground vehicles.

Juliette, Peder, Leon and Jonas run outside, none really dressed for the cold, their attention drawn to the direction Kate and Edvard are staring.

They all stare at the pluming cloud, the chimney stack of smoke reaching up into the sky...

INT. THULE STATION RADIO ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Colin sits at the communications desk, holding the radio mic. Edvard and Kate behind him. Jonas and Peder hang by the doorway. Jonas chews gum nervously.

COLIN

Hailing McMurdo or any ears on emergency channel, do you copy... Repeat, this is Thule Station, test for echo--

Juliette enters the room, sensing the commotion. Hugging herself as if cold.

KATE

Don't you have a chopper?

EDVARD

He went to Haley to get more kerosene for the generators. Without radio he could be another day, maybe two.

COLIN

(re: radio)

I can't reach the next room on this bloody thing!

Adam arrives. Kate pulls him aside.

KATE

Does Sander know?

ADAM

Yeah. But he's not leaving the lab for anything.

Kate looks down at the palm of her hand. Pondering her next move.

INT. RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate stands at the door to the shower.

ANGLE ON the stall, where not half an hour ago its walls were spattered with blood.

The shower stall has been rinsed. Only faint traces of blood now, in the grout along the drain.

Kate's evidence is dwindling. She touches one wall: still wet from being rinsed.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - DAY

Tight on Sander's open palm, now holding the fillings in his own hand.

Sander eyes Kate, who stands before him by the exam table. Juliette and Adam work at the table by the microscope. Both are obviously eavesdropping on the conversation.

SANDER

All right. Let's presume these are silver fillings, as you say.

KATE

Yes-- because the creature rejects inorganic material. The bullets?

SANDER

But you're saying it can fully imitate a human being? What about these fillings tells you that? Where's the science, Kate? Where's the proof? Without it, I can't help you.

Kate doesn't answer. She's taut with frustration. Looks to Adam for any kind of backup.

SANDER (CONT'D)

He can't either.

Adam doesn't speak up. Juliette chimes in:

JULIETTE (O.S.)

Doctor Halvorson.

Juliette points at the large tube-screen monitor hooked to the microscope to display the magnified view.

ON SCREEN: blood cells swimming in a clotted sea. The activity is sluggish but there.

SANDER

That's it, yes. Look at this... There is still cellular activity in the blood.

Kate's attention moves to the twisted, gnarled corpse of the Thing with its half-mutated dogs like lumps in various places on its body.

She seems to realize what Sander is suggesting before anyone else does.

KATE

It's still... alive?

SANDER

We just might be able to salvage something from this after all.

Kate looks to Adam: Are you going to side with Sander on this too?

ADAM

Uh, Sander? Maybe we should freeze this before decomp spoils it.

SANDER

Yes, yes. Juliette, get some men and take it to cold storage.

Kate leaves ahead of Juliette. With the women gone, Sander nods at Adam.

SANDER (CONT'D)

Finish photographing. We'll run another batch when I return.

Sander moves for the exit, pulling off his surgical gloves.

Adam remains alone with the corpse of the creature.

He turns back around to watch the blood cells on the monitor. Adjusts the hue and magnification with the microscope.

Behind him, one of the limbs of the half-absorbed dogs suddenly TWITCHES. And then relaxes, draping over the lip of the table.

Adam doesn't see it.

He takes the petri-dish sample off the microscope, slides a coverlet over the glass, and crouches down.

ANGLE ON a small refrigeration unit where lab samples are stored. Adam opens the short door and places the petri dish inside--

INT. SPRYTE - DAY

--and Kate reaches into the glove compartment to this Spryte, pulling out a set of large binoculars.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Kate stares up at the rocky cliffs where the Sea King crashed down.

Only a faint finger of smoke curls up from the crash site now.

Kate raises the binoculars, looking for any sign of life.

BINOCULARS POV

Nothing but snow and rocks, hiding view of where the helicopter went down.

The magnified view is obscured by snowfall carried in the wind. Bad weather on its way.

RESUME KATE

She lowers the binoculars...

And Juliette is standing right behind her.

Kate senses a presence and nearly jumps when she sees--

JULIETTE

Kate. Can we talk?

Juliette seems nervous. Glances back at the base.

KATE

Sure. What's wrong?

Juliette opens the door to the Spryte and gestures, to get them in out of the wind.

JULIETTE

In here.

INT. SPRYTE - MOMENTS LATER

Kate and Juliette sit in the front seats.

JULIETTE

You were saying, about the alien, how maybe it could have attacked one of us...

KATE

Juliette, Sander was right. Even if it's true, I don't have any proof.

JULIETTE

I think I do.

Juliette holds up a heavy ECW insulated BOOT.

Its sole has been torn around the toe, flapping open.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

I found these under the bench in the changing room.

She pulls out a pair of cold-weather GLOVES from the leg of the boot.

The gloves have been shredded at the fingers. Spots of blood mar the now-fingerless ends.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Does this mean what I think it does?

Kate inspects them with growing suspicion.

KATE

Whose are these?

JULIETTE

Lars. He was one of the ones who stayed behind.

KATE

He was here when it escaped?

Juliette nods.

A muddled BANG distracts them both.

Through the Spryte's windshield, they spy PEDER and LARS carrying the bagged remains of the Dog-Thing across the station grounds toward the Cold Storage Shed.

JULIETTE

That is him, with the beard.

Kate watches closely.

KATE

What does he do?

JULIETTE

He's the cook.

Lars suddenly looks their way. Squints his eyes to see who is inside the Spryte.

Juliette hunches down in her chair slightly. Unnerved.

Lars nearly drops his end of the body bag, and the remains threaten to tumble to the ground.

Peder averts the spill and waits for Lars to regain his footing, and they move for the shed.

Kate eyes him suspiciously.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

I should get back inside... I just
don't know what to do with these.

KATE

I'll keep them.
(beat)
Juliette: Thank you.

Juliette nods at Kate and hurries toward the door to the main station building.

Kate looks back toward the cold storage shed.

EXT. COLD STORAGE SHED - MOMENTS LATER

Kate approaches the door and listens. Eavesdropping.

INT. COLD STORAGE SHED - CONTINUOUS

Peder and Lars heft the body bag into an ultra-wide freezer unit.

The two men speak in NORWEGIAN.

Lars gestures toward the body bag. Still speaking in NORWEGIAN, ending as if it were a question.

Peder shrugs. Lights a cigarette.

The two men stare at each other a beat.

Lars nods at Peder.

Peder hands him the cigarette and Lars takes a drag.

THROUGH THE CRACK between the door and the frame, Kate peers in.

A moment between the two Norwegian men. A pause. Each eyeing the other. Is this about sharing a cigarette?

Piercing the silence: a FIRE ALARM.

The men jump and look toward the main building.

EXT. COLD STORAGE SHED - CONTINUOUS

Kate backs from the door and hides around the corner, facing the main building.

The two men rush for the main door. They don't notice Kate behind them.

INT. THULE STATION KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The fire alarm BLARES louder here.

Adam stands in the dining area adjoining the kitchen. Other MEN from the base come rushing in, their attention first on Adam and then on what Adam is staring at (OS).

Edvard joins in late, shouting over the klaxon.

EDVARD

Who set off the alarm?!

He then sets sights on the object of everyone's attention:

BLOOD SPATTER sprayed along the corner and atop the round table in the small dining nook.

ADAM

I came in to get a soda and-- This is it.... This is how I found it!

Edvard frowns. He looks to Jonas nearby. Gives Jonas the neck-slice "cut it off" signal and Jonas turns to the wall fire alarm unit.

A moment later the alarm dies.

Peder and Lars enter the room, taking off their heavy winter gear.

JONAS

Whose blood is it?

EDVARD

Anyone missing?

People look around at the various faces.

PEDER

Just Doctor Halvorson.

EDVARD

(to Adam)
Get him.

Adam leaves.

JONAS
It doesn't make sense... There
aren't any prints.

EDVARD
What?

JONAS
Away from the table. No bloody
prints. It's like someone just...
exploded, and disappeared.

Jonas raises a Nikon F2 camera and takes a snapshot.

ANGLE ON the table and corner. His analogy is accurate.

JONAS (CONT'D)
Who's bleeding?

LEON
I'm fine.

PEDER
Not me.

JONAS
That's nearly a liter of blood.
This is not a superficial wound.

Others AD-LIB similar answers.

Kate speaks up, over them:

KATE
It got to someone.

Sander arrives with Adam in time to hear this.

EDVARD
What do you mean?

SANDER
You're panicking, Kate. Stick with
what we know.

Kate ignores him, focusing on Edvard.

KATE
This creature, it's a chameleon. A
mimic. It didn't just kill the
dogs-- it absorbed them.
Understand? It became them.

SANDER
No it didn't! It did no such--

EDVARD

Let her finish.

KATE

That's how it spreads. And blends in. It's already gotten to one of us. It may have been responsible for the crash. It could still be among us now.

SANDER

Listen: We may have evidence that the creature was cloning itself into the huskies, but that was just a physical copy. Tissue. Blood.

EDVARD

So, it can look human?

SANDER

For it to deceive the rest of us, it would have to be absolutely perfect, in look and behavior. To speak our language and understand what it's saying? To fathom all the subtleties of human interaction, and play the part? Impossible.

It's a good defense. Kate has no rebuttal.

Edvard weighs both sides.

EDVARD

We go for help. Lars and I will take a Spryte and try to reach U.S. Outpost 31. It's the closest from here. They can call for help.

The group -- relieved at this news -- begins to spring into action.

SANDER

Does my expert opinion account for nothing? We're in the presence of the greatest discovery of all time!

(in Norwegian)

Are we not scientists?

EDVARD

I've lost two of my men already. My friends. I won't lose any more.

Sander grabs Edvard's arm, desperation in his voice.

SANDER

Don't make their deaths worthless.
Give me the time I need with this
specimen.

Edvard regards Sander with a sadness.

EDVARD

Sander, one day your work will
consume you.

And everyone moves on, accepting that Edvard won this
argument.

Sander shoots a look of contempt and betrayal at Kate,
who is not so sure if she is right.

EXT. THULE STATION - DAY

The daylight itself seems cold, casting a blue-grey pall
over the camp.

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Juliette steps out of Edvard's office into the hall, and
Kate catches up to her from farther back.

KATE

Juliette, there you are.

JULIETTE

Kate. I was about to look for you.

Kate looks over her shoulder and then spies a door to
Peder's personal workshop/storage room.

She opens the door and peers in.

No one's there.

KATE

In here.

Kate enters. Juliette pauses, concerned. She looks left
and right for signs of anyone else in the hall, then
follows Kate inside.

INT. PEDER'S STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shelving stocked with extra fire extinguishers, nonperishables, unlabeled boxes, paint cans, and cleaning supplies. A weak overhead lamp.

Juliette shuts the door behind them.

KATE

We can't let Lars leave.

JULIETTE

I know. I thought the same thing.
But how can we stop him?

Kate begins pacing, collecting her thoughts.

KATE

Maybe we go to Edvard in private.
I'll show him the gloves.

Juliette is already shaking her head 'No.'

JULIETTE

I just talked to him. He didn't believe me. He wants proof, like your friend Sander said.

KATE

Then we have to do something.
(right at Juliette)
We have to disable the vehicles.

Juliette reacts for a quick moment, but starts to nod.

JULIETTE

That could be complicated.

KATE

I know a little about mechanics.
It won't be that hard. Are the Sprytes locked?

JULIETTE

Yes... But! Peder keeps a spare set of keys in his drawer.

Juliette looks over at--

A WORK BENCH against the wall, with a shallow drawer.

Kate puts a reassuring hand on Juliette's shoulder, then moves to the work bench, clicks on the small desk lamp on the surface, and slides the drawer open.

She begins rummaging through the drawer.

KATE

How many keys am I looking for?

THE DRAWER is littered with odds and ends. Screws and washers, tape measure, work rags, and soon-- a key, labeled with a yellow key-chain.

Kate's hand holds it to the yellow light of the desk lamp.

JULIETTE (O.S.)

Five. Two Sprytes, two bulldozers,
and a flatbed.

Kate finds a second key and puts it on the desktop. This one with a green key chain label and a number 2.

KATE

That's two...

ANGLE ON JULIETTE behind Kate as bone segments PUSH out of Juliette's skin and clothes, sliding into place like bony armor outside her blouse.

BACK TO THE DRAWER, with Kate's hand rustling noisily through the items, the sounds masking the transformation happening right behind her--

KATE (CONT'D)

Three and four...

Juliette's HEAD peels back to reveal a wide mouth, the jawline widening and distended like a great white shark's maw, Juliette's eyes displaced and black.

Kate hears it now, and turns around--

Juliette-thing completes its transformation into a kind of chitinous CREATURE, its claws and mandibles reaching for Kate--

Reacting in a flash, Kate reaches back--

HER HAND finds the desk lamp and in one quick motion--

She SMASHES the lamp against Juliette-thing's HEAD--

POP! The bulb bursts and the creature is jolted with electricity--

Kate dives around the half-beetle creature as it shudders from electrocution--

FOLLOWING KATE as she crawls over a desk between her and the door out--

TUMBLING over the desk as Juliette-Thing WHIRLS AROUND in pursuit--

Kate gets up again and reaches the door--

But it's LOCKED--

She fumbles with the little knob-lock--

Behind her, sounds of the desk screeching on the floor as it's pushed out of the way by Juliette-Thing--

Kate gets the door open and launches herself out into--

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

--where she gets up to find LEON stepping out from a room across the hall and down a few feet--

LEON

What the hell is--

Leon's eyes go wide, fixing on something behind Kate--

Kate gets to her feet and doesn't look back, doesn't slow down, just RUNS past Leon--

KATE

RUN!!

Leon understands a moment too late, his body turning to start to run with Kate--

ON KATE as she passes him and keeps moving down the hall--

When A GUSH OF BLOOD SPATTERS on the wall and Leon's arm flails into view before O.S.

KEEPING ON KATE as she makes it to the interior hall door at a "T" intersection--

Flinging herself against the door and then holding it shut with her body--

Leon's SCREAMS just inside cut off short quickly--

Approaching her in this hall are ADAM and COLIN, with LARS trailing a few steps behind.

The door SHUDDERS as the creature bashes against it--

Colin and Adam stop in their tracks, and Lars turns and runs back down the way he came--

From the other side of the door, Juliette-Thing can be heard banging against the door, the wood rattling in its frame with every strike.

ADAM

Jesus Christ what happened!?

KATE

Help me brace the door!

Adam tentatively steps for Kate and the door--

A bony claw-tipped hand PUNCHES THROUGH the door at face level, splintering wood--

Adam turns away and runs--

KATE (CONT'D)

Adam!

Kate and Colin hold fast, trying to keep Juliette-Thing trapped inside.

TIGHT ON a flamethrower held in a man's arms, stepping around the corner.

REVEAL the man holding the weapon: LARS.

Kate sees Lars and her eyes go wide.

Kate suddenly opens the door wide for him--

Juliette-Thing is RIGHT THERE, beetle-mouth and small antennae-limbs ready to strike at Lars--

Lars stares in shock just a beat.

Kate shouts--

KATE (CONT'D)

Burn it!

Lars squeezes the trigger and FIRES--

Juliette-Thing is engulfed in flame--

It screeches in agony, flailing madly--

It strikes feebly at Lars but misses--

Juliette-Thing comes charging out into the hallway--

Lars dives out of the way as it runs past him--

It manages to stumble into the kitchen, still dressed in fire, burning alive, catching fire to the ceiling as it flees--

Kate helps Lars up and the two pursue it into--

INT. THULE STATION KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They arrive to find Juliette-Thing, still burning, now yanking at the exposed water pipes to the kitchen sink--

The creature is powerfully strong, and the pipe SNAPS, spewing water on the burning form--

It is putting the fire out.

KATE

Don't let it--

Lars holds up his hand to say: I know, I know.

He torches the creature again.

It stumbles from the gushing water pipe. Falls.

Lars approaches and gives it one more squeeze from the flamethrower.

Juliette-Thing finally stops flailing. Its bony, armored form crashes to the floor.

The water keeps spraying everywhere. And fire starts to spread beyond the reach of the leaky pipe.

Jonas and Colin enter carrying fire extinguishers. They start choking the fire before it gets out of control.

Kate grabs Lars's collar and shouts over the sound of the extinguishers:

KATE (CONT'D)

Leon!

Lars looks back at her, confused.

LARS

Leon?

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The hall where Leon's blood is smeared along the wall...
Empty.

But blood trails off into the open door of Peder's
Storage room.

Kate leads Lars in...

INT. PEDER'S STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

No sign of Leon. But more blood on the floor.

And a sharp wind from the small broken WINDOW above the
work bench.

KATE

Outside!

She leads Lars back out into the hallway--

EXT. THULE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The two of them burst out the side entrance, not
completely suited up for the extreme cold weather.

Already the sunlight has begun to wane.

Others have caught up with the chaos and follow Kate and
Lars outside, trying to figure out what's going on.
Edvard, Sander, Adam and Peder join the group.

THE SNOW reveals blood-spotted footprints leading to

THE VEHICLE GARAGE maybe two dozen paces away.

Sound of something RATTLING.

Lars and Kate round the corner of the garage, for a view
of the large bay roll-down doors...

Leon has his hands on the chain wrapped and locked around
the garage door. Pulling hard.

KATE

HEY!

Leon lets go and faces the group. Breathing hard.

The others are out of breath too-- and their breath
plumes before their faces in the crisp air. Yet--

Leon's breath is not visible. As if his body were as cold as the snow.

His skin is somewhat translucent, like an unborn infant's, revealing blood vessels and bone underneath, slowly becoming more opaque.

Leon isn't quite finished transforming.

- Eyelashes protrude from his eyelids, one at a time.
- His eyes shift color until they match the real Leon.
- His mouth opens like a wound and seals itself in human-looking lips.
- Fingernails slide into place from the flesh of his fingertips.

Everyone gathered around Leon watches in horror and awe.

Leon raises his hands in surrender.

LEON

Everything is okay. I'm fine.

Lars sneers, and burns Leon where he stands. WHOOSH.

Leon WAILS that same alien, multi-pitch screech.

The group stares in total horror.

Edvard frowns; angered.

EXT. THULE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Leon's corpse still burns, most of it an ashen pile, his limbs still orange-hot cinders in the snow.

The group has now been joined by Sander, Jonas and Colin. Everyone is here.

Among them, Peder now wears the backup flamethrower.

KATE

This thing had an agenda. A strategy. It convinced me that someone else was the creature. Trying to turn us against one another, while it remained hidden. But when its plan was threatened, it attacked.

JONAS

Wait. Someone else? Who did she--
(correcting)
Who did it name?

KATE

(beat)

Lars.

Everyone looks at Lars, who wasn't paying attention to the English until his name was mentioned. Now he looks noticeably concerned.

LARS

(in Norwegian)

What?

EDVARD

Then that's it. Nobody goes anywhere alone.

COLIN

How do we know it didn't get you?
I mean, how can we know?

KATE

You can't. It can be any of us.

COLIN

Oh, that's just bloody great...

ADAM

I know it's not me.

JONAS

Me neither. So I'm getting the hell out of here.

COLIN

I'm with him.

KATE

No. Nobody can leave. We have to disable the vehicles--

This causes an uproar.

EDVARD

Kate. You can't possibly expect us to deprive ourselves of the only means of escape we have.

She tries to respond but is drowned out by the AD-LIB ruckus of the crowd. People already accusing others of being untrustworthy, others ready to leave. Then:

SANDER

She's right!

(beat)

She's right. No one can leave.

The group quiets.

Sander looks overly tired. Grim.

SANDER (CONT'D)

This thing spends ten thousand years frozen in the ice, waiting for a life form sophisticated enough to come along and free it. It then successfully imitates a person so well we all believe the lie. It tricks, manipulates, and kills to achieve its end.

EDVARD

Which is?

On Kate, with the answer:

KATE

Escape.

SANDER

(pacing)

What we are dealing with, here, is a survivor. Advanced as any organism I could've imagined and stubborn as any single-celled bacteria or virus I've seen.

(stopping)

To let it leave and, God forbid, reach the outside world? Disaster. It would spread like a silent epidemic. No one could stop it.

EDVARD

Juliette and Leon are dead. The Americans as well. How do we know we've killed all the imitations?

KATE

We don't. But we have to figure out a way, to be sure...

SANDER

A test. Yes, I think I could-- with some time and what remains of the dogs. I could do it.

Edvard seems reluctant to agree to the idea. Shaking his head, he gives in.

EDVARD

All right. We disable the vehicles. You work up a test.

(MORE)

EDVARD (CONT'D)

And from now on, nobody goes
anywhere alone. I mean it.

The rest of the group stares suspiciously at each other for a beat, then begins to disperse, in pairs or groups of three.

Kate nods at Sander, the two of them now separated a bit from the others.

Sander fumbles for a non-apology where he still retains his sense of authority.

SANDER

Kate... I didn't have all the data
I needed.

KATE

It's okay. Just, figure out a
test.

Sander nods and moves on. Kate notices her hands are trembling.

INT. COLD STORAGE SHED - EVENING

Peder and Jonas stare at the dog remains in the body bag.

Neither of them moves to it right away.

PEDER

You get that end.

JONAS

I'm not touching it first.

PEDER

It's dead.

JONAS

Then why would Sander need it?

Beat. Both men are tense. Jonas finally steps in and grabs one end of the bag.

Peder grabs the other and they heft it off the table.

Jonas suddenly drops his end and backs off--

JONAS (CONT'D)

Did it move? I thought...

PEDER

It's frozen! Come on, let's get
this over with.

Jonas cautiously lifts it again.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The body bag lands with a THUMP.

Sander opens the plastic to find the pile of dog remains and half-mutated alien monster frozen solid.

SANDER
Took you long enough.

Sander positions heat lamps overhead.

Peder and Jonas stare at the twisted thing. Neither of them look happy.

JONAS
Now what.

SANDER
It will take an hour to thaw.

Jonas and Peder glance at each other, then back at Sander.

INT. RESTROOM - EVENING

Adam washes his hands and face at the sink.

He stares at his own reflection for a beat. The splash of fresh water on his face did nothing to help the pale, clammy look of his skin under fluorescent light.

Edvard enters the restroom and stops when he sees Adam.

Adam wheels around on Edvard.

EDVARD
What are you doing here?

Beat.

ADAM
It's the bathroom.

EDVARD
How long have you been alone?

Edvard's gaze travels around the bathroom, inspecting it for signs of anything suspect.

ADAM
Maybe five minutes. Ask Sander.

EDVARD
Anyone else come in here during
that time?

ADAM
Just you... How long have YOU been
alone?

The two stare at each other a beat.

EDVARD
Oh, for Christ's sake, I just came
in here to take a piss.

ADAM
Yeah. Okay. Okay.

The two circle each other. Edvard moves away from the
door and Adam moves for it.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - EVENING

Colin shuffles a deck of cards at the corner table.

Jonas enters with a drink and approaches him.

JONAS
Deal me in?

COLIN
You know it. The usual?

JONAS
Yah, yah.

Colin begins to deal a game of Gin Rummy.

Peder steps in and crosses to the pinball machine in the
other corner.

As the sounds of the pinball game chime, Colin leans to
speak quietly to Jonas:

COLIN
Hey... When's the last time Peder
went out for a smoke?

Jonas shrugs.

JONAS
I don't know. Why?

Colin keeps staring at Jonas until it dawns on Jonas why he's asking.

Jonas stares at Peder, whose back is to the two card players while he jostles the pinball machine.

INT. VEHICLE GARAGE - EVENING

The hood of a Spryte lifts up, exposing the guts of the engine underneath.

With a flashlight and wire cutters, Lars reaches in and clips a set of plugs near the battery.

Kate stands nearby with her own flashlight.

Lars looks her way and nods. We notice now that he's still wearing the flame unit on his back. Ready at a moment's notice to torch someone.

KATE

Is that it? Any more?

Gesturing to try and help him understand.

Lars shakes his head. That's the last of the vehicles.

She nods.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay.

Behind them, at the open roll-top door, Edvard arrives, watching. Solemn.

EDVARD

Visibility is dropping. Another whiteout rolling in. No one will be able to get in.

KATE

Good. Gives us time to test everyone.

Edvard lets out a worried breath.

EDVARD

I hope you know what you're doing.

EXT. THULE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Snow falls at dusk. A hundred yards out in any direction and it looks like an old TV with no reception.

Edvard, Lars, and Kate make their way from the garage to the base.

Lars looks left as they march--
Then does a double take. He grabs Kate and points.

IN THE DISTANCE, through the static storm of snow, two FIGURES limp toward them. Silhouettes.

Edvard notices too. The look on faces: Shock.

KATE

(sotto)

Carter.

Lars hurries for the base entrance and punches the alarm.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sander looks up from the thawing corpse as the alarm echoes loudly inside.

The other men look up as well.

SANDER

For fuck's sake, what now?

Jonas and Peder hurry out.

Sander gestures at Adam to follow.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

THE FIGURES get nearer. Kate moves for them as they stumble forward. Revealing--

Yes: Carter. And Jameson. Both frostbitten. Ice clinging to their ECW gear and faces. Wounded but alive.

The two men clutch each other for support. Jameson finally loses the strength in his legs and falls to his knees. Carter tries to help him up, but collapses to one knee himself.

KATE

Jesus, Carter!

Edvard holds Kate back--

EDVARD

Don't touch them!

The two Navy men don't look like they could put up much of a fight.

Lars rejoins Kate with his flamethrower out. Peder, Jonas, and Adam spill out in a semicircle around Carter and Jameson.

Carter tries to speak but his throat is too dry at first.

KATE

You're frostbitten. Let's get you inside.

EDVARD

That is a bad idea.

KATE

You got a better one?

Adam looks at Carter and Jameson skeptically. His nerves are apparent in his voice.

ADAM

We should burn them.

CARTER

(raspy)
What the fuck--

KATE

They just walked down a mountain after a helicopter crash!

ADAM

Exactly.

EDVARD

Impossible for a human to survive that.

JAMESON

(hoarse)
Bullshit.

ADAM

We can't take any chances.

KATE

We're not murdering them!

EDVARD

It's not murder. It's survival.

Carter finds the strength to stand up. And help Jameson up. Then, he weakly steps toward the door.

Peder blocks Carter's path, aiming the flame unit.

CARTER

Out. Of. The way.

Kate steps in Peder's line of fire, holding out her arms.

KATE

Wait! We don't have to kill anyone.

EDVARD

Move, Kate.

KATE

We can just tie them up until Sander's test is ready.

Beat. The men consider this.

Carter looks like he's been awake for a week straight. He and Jameson just want inside where it's warm.

Peder finally lowers his flamethrower and steps aside.

EXT. THULE STATION - EVENING

High angle on the base, as the snowstorm descends.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - EVENING

The fire damage from earlier still scars the floor and walls in this noisy room.

Carter and Jameson stand in a corner where the large diesel generator purrs loudly.

The two freezing men hold out their hands before it-- the machine is a surrogate heater.

Lars stands inside the door. Guarding, with his flamethrower ready.

Kate enters, carrying warm food from the kitchen. Lars nods at her as she squeezes past.

JAMESON

This is BULLSHIT, man. Fuckin' bullshit, stuck out here--

She sets the food tray atop the non-working generator, near Carter.

KATE
This should help warm you up.

CARTER
Thanks.

Jameson doesn't talk, he just starts eating. His hands are trembling.

Kate watches the men a moment. As she starts to turn away, Carter grabs her sleeve--

CARTER (CONT'D)
Hey--

Lars tenses and says something in Norwegian. Aims the flamethrower at Carter. Carter lets go.

KATE
Yeah.

CARTER
What happened?

KATE
I was going to ask you.

CARTER
Some...thing got to Griggs.

Searching for the words to describe what he saw.

KATE
It got to more than just Griggs.

Carter understands the situation now.

BOOOOM. A muffled explosion rattles the generator room. Everyone is instantly on edge at the sound.

JAMESON
(mouth half-full)
What was that?

Kate moves to the door where Lars peers outside.

FOLLOWING outside to

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Discovering smoke curling up from the roof of the station's main building.

Lars says something ominous in Norwegian. Unaware, Kate reiterates what Lars just said:

KATE

The lab...

Kate moves toward the entrance to the station, through the snowfall.

Lars turns and shuts Carter and Jameson in--

Carter rushes for the door--

CARTER

Wait, don't--

--and the door is LOCKED from the outside. Carter tries the door but can't get it open.

CARTER (CONT'D)

God damnit!

Looking back at Jameson, who still has a mouth full of soup-soaked bread.

JAMESON

Fuck 'em all, man.

On Carter, looking for a way out.

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The room is completely ablaze. Fire consumes the exam table, the work desks, the microscope station...

A large, broken two-gallon jug rolls on the floor, vomiting more flammable liquid.

Adam and Jonas try to enter from the door but the heat pushes them back. Both are armed with fire extinguishers. They immediately start spraying into the room to choke back the fire.

The flames retreat.

Adam and Jonas get bolder, stepping into the room and spraying the walls to keep the fire from jumping to the ceiling or an adjoining room.

Ceiling tiles fall from the intense heat.

Adam catches his breath; coughs. He's reached the lab's exam table. The table is completely charred. As is Sander's test. All of it, ruined.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - EVENING

Adam and Jonas sit slumped at the poker table. Exhausted, smeared with soot, and numb with shock.

Pulling back as we hear/see the scene around them: Peder and Edvard arguing with Sander and Colin. Kate and Lars stand so as to avoid looking like they've chosen sides with either group.

SANDER

Who do you think? Maybe the man with the flamethrower!

PEDER

I was nowhere near the lab--

EDVARD

That was some homemade explosive, not a flamethrower--

COLIN

How do you know?

Kate puts her hands to her temples, tired of all the arguing around her. Knowing this is what the Thing wants.

EDVARD

What are you implying?

COLIN

Who said I was implying--

SANDER

--don't have any other way to test the group, and it was my idea--

The SHOUTING continues, but Kate touches Sander's arm to get his attention.

KATE

There's another way.

Sander questions her for just a moment before shouting over the angry Norwegians.

SANDER

Shut up! There may be another way.

This quiets everyone.

Sander gestures at Kate, to give her the floor.

Kate wasn't ready for this. She thought Sander would pull her aside instead of putting her in the spotlight.

After a beat of uncertainty, she steps in. The look on her face is like a poker player going "all in."

KATE

We can't know for sure which of us is one of those Things... But at least we can tell who isn't.

ADAM

What?

JONAS

How?

KATE

(to Jonas)

Hand me your flashlight.

Jonas pulls his small pen-sized flashlight from his breast pocket and hands it to Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)

This creature can't imitate inorganic material. Like silver.

Kate opens her mouth, pulls one cheek aside to expose a molar where a SILVER FILLING shines in the light.

Lars seems to instantly get it. Fillings, yes. He snaps his fingers at Kate and declares something in Norwegian, as if to say "Of course, the teeth."

He lowers his own jaw to expose a silver crown on one tooth.

KATE (CONT'D)

So you know Lars and I are human. Jonas, open up.

Sander approaches Kate, suddenly imploring--

SANDER

Kate, this is ridiculous--

But Kate takes two steps back, behind Lars.

Lars levels the flamethrower right at Sander.

Sander lowers his hands.

KATE

This is just a precaution. So we know who we can eliminate right here and now. Okay?

Adam chuckles. It's that nervous, insomniac's laugh that suggests Adam has lost as much sanity as he has sleep.

Jonas opens his mouth.

Flashlight reveals: metal fillings.

Kate steps to Adam next.

KATE (CONT'D)

Adam...

ADAM

I'm going to get killed because I flossed.

KATE

Nobody's getting killed. Open.

He does so. No cavities.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay. Just, stand over there.

SANDER

You don't know if this works.

(to others)

She's operating on a hunch, not scientific theory.

KATE

A hunch is better than nothing.

She clicks on the pen light at his mouth, waiting for Sander to open up for her.

SANDER

They're porcelain.

Beat. Sander feels he's stumped the test.

KATE

Go stand by Adam.

(to rest)

Anyone else with porcelain fillings? Or clean teeth?

Colin turns to Edvard to appeal.

COLIN

You need me on the radio. Tell her she can't tie me up for having healthy teeth, boss. Tell her.

Edvard lets out a breath, shakes his head, and moves next to Sander.

Colin stares on in shock.

EDVARD

Mine are porcelain too.

SANDER

Edvard, you're still in charge.
(in Norwegian)
We can't let paranoia rule this camp!

Kate ignores Sander. To Peder and Jonas:

KATE

This is just a safety precaution. Okay? Temporary.

JONAS

What now?

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - LATER

Jonas backs up from a chair where Adam sits bound with utility rope.

ADAM

Really? Really. This is the plan?

Sander is tied down similarly in a chair nearby. All four men (Adam, Sander, Edvard, Colin) are tied to chairs set about five feet away from each other in this large rec room. The pool table has been pushed aside.

Colin starts to scoot himself farther away from the others. He's jittery. Nervous.

COLIN

Don't put me so bloody close to these lads.

Kate moves to a window and peers outside at the snowstorm.

Sander sneers at Kate.

SANDER

You can't do this, Kate. You don't know what you're doing.

(to others)

She's just a grad student.

KATE

This is the safest move until we know for sure who's human.

(breath)

Jonas, can you and Lars get Carter and Jameson from the shed? We need to check them too.

Jonas looks over at the four tied to chairs.

Edvard makes eye contact with Jonas... And nods slightly. As if to give him approval to listen to Kate.

Kate notices.

JONAS

Okay. Yeah, all right.

(to Lars, in Norwegian)

Come on. You're with me.

Lars looks to Kate: You sure?

Kate nods slightly. Letting him go.

The two men leave the Rec Room.

Peder remains behind, still armed with his flamethrower, steadily watching the men tied to the chairs.

Kate rubs her forehead. She's been up for more than two days straight. Exhaustion is setting in on everyone in camp, but Kate feels it the most right now.

Sander meets Peder's gaze. And starts talking to Peder in NORWEGIAN. This statement is made without subtitles.

Kate's attention shifts between Sander and Peder.

Sander says something else in NORWEGIAN.

Peder REPLIES. Kate asks without sounding like it's a question but more of a demand:

KATE

What's he saying.

(to Sander)

What are you saying.

SANDER
None of your business.

Kate steps up to Sander, gripping something...

A NAVY HANDGUN. One of the pistols taken off Carter or Jameson. Aimed at Sander.

SANDER (CONT'D)
What. You going to shoot me?

KATE
Would it do anything if I did?

SANDER
What was the term again? Toasty?
Is that what has gotten to you?

Peder steps up with his flamethrower. Pointed more at Kate than the others.

Colin sees he is slightly in the line of fire. He HOPS his chair to the side a little. Toward Adam.

ADAM
Stay away from me.

SANDER
(to Kate)
Look. Just untie us...
(to Peder)
And we will figure this out together.

EDVARD
Wait.

Sander whips his head around to glare at Edvard.

SANDER
What?

EDVARD
I agree with Kate. This is the smartest option... Unless you have a better idea.

Colin looks over at his boss in frustration.

COLIN
Oh, don't you start siding with her now! In case you hadn't noticed, we're royally fucked!

Kate pays them no heed. She returns to the window.

KATE

We wait until Carter and Jameson are brought inside. Just a couple of minutes.

Peder considers this plan. Nods: Yeah, okay.

KATE'S POV reveals the silhouettes of Lars and Jonas in the snowstorm as they venture far enough away to be enshrouded in white.

EXT. THULE STATION - NIGHT

Jonas and Lars lean into the wind and advance through the walls of snowfall. Jonas clasps Lars on the shoulder and shouts into his ear:

JONAS

(in Norwegian)

Can't we just take the Spryte and get the hell out of here?

Lars stares at Jonas a beat, then grabs him by the arm and leads him onward. The implied answer: No.

They reach the generator shed. The door hangs slightly ajar. The knob and bolt have been badly damaged by some blunt weapon or device.

Lars and Jonas exchange looks.

Lars steps up first, flamethrower at the ready.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stepping inside. The room is dark.

Lars flips the light--

Empty. No sign of Carter or Jameson.

Jonas looks in from over Lars's shoulder.

JONAS

Shit.

Lars steps in further, looking for any signs of the two Americans.

JONAS (CONT'D)

(in Norwegian)

We need to go back and tell the others.

LARS
(in Norwegian)

No.

Lars pushes past Jonas, going back outside.

EXT. GENERATOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jonas catches up.

LARS
(in Norwegian)
We must find the Americans first,
while the tracks are fresh.

IN THE SNOW, a set of footprints make a sloppy dotted line for the garage building.

Lars moves quickly.

Jonas doesn't notice Lars has moved right away. He looks back toward the main building first. Jonas finally sees he's been left alone, and starts after Lars in the snow. The wind biting his face.

JONAS POV, tracking Lars thirty steps ahead.

Lars reaches the door to the garage. Kicks at it.

The door opens inward, into darkness.

JONAS
Lars!

Over Lars' shoulder now, looking back at Jonas.

JONAS (CONT'D)
Wait!

Jonas takes another step toward Lars when a FIGURE from inside the garage grabs and YANKS Lars through the open door and out of sight.

ON JONAS, unsure what to do next.

He decides to flee.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate keeps watch outside.

Peder eats a snack bar, guarding the door.

Sander heckles Kate.

SANDER
They're not coming back.

Kate turns her attention from the window.

KATE
You don't know.

SANDER
It's taken them too long. Lars and Jonas should have been back by now. Something has gone wrong.

KATE
It hasn't been that long.

ADAM
Yeah... Yeah it has. Sander is right. Come on, Kate. You got bigger problems now. We're not the enemy!

KATE
You say that because you don't want to be tied up.

ADAM
I don't! All right? One of these guys could be a monster!

PEDER
All the more reason we should keep you all tied up.

COLIN
Oh this is just great. This is perfect--

EDVARD
Colin, stay calm.

COLIN
What? I'm sorry, did you say calm?

KATE
Give them a few more minutes. It just feels longer because we're waiting.

PEDER
I don't think so.

A sound carries in the wind outside. Sounded like a brief, loud SHOUT of a man in distress-- Jonas?

Everyone heard it.

Peder tenses. Leans into the hall from his station at the doorway.

Beat. Some other sounds in the wind-- just corrugated roofing clapping against one of the buildings? Or something more insidious?

SANDER

They're gone, Kate.

(to Peder)

You can't trust Jonas and Lars now. Or the Americans.

KATE

Shut up.

SANDER

By now it could be four of them against just two of you. Without our help you're outnumbered--

KATE

I said shut up!

EDVARD

(to Peder)

Sander has a point. The game has changed. We need to barricade this building right away.

KATE

(to Peder)

Do NOT untie them.

Peder gives her a glance of consideration, but just then there's a KNOCK on the side door.

INT. THULE STATION ECW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peder rushes to the door and peers through the small window. Kate joins him a moment later.

PEDER

It's Jonas!

KATE

Where's Lars?

PEDER

I don't know!

The door POUNDS again.

Kate puts her hands on the door to open it. Peder leans against the door to keep it closed.

PEDER (CONT'D)

Wait. What if it's not him?

JONAS (O.S.)

Let me in!

Kate pauses. She and Peder stare off, each questioning the other, or themselves.

Kate looks through the small porthole window and shouts at Jonas:

KATE

Open your mouth!

Jonas puts his face close to the porthole and opens his jaw. The room's light glints off his molar fillings.

Peder nods at her. Okay. He backs up, still ready with the flamethrower--

Kate opens the door and Jonas stumbles in, shivering. Snow and ice have already collected on his gear.

She shuts and bolts the door behind Jonas.

Jonas settles down on the bench, hugging himself. Trying to get warm again.

JONAS

They escaped...

Peder keeps watch on Jonas. Kate bends down to meet him eye-to-eye. Puts a thumb on his chin and opens his mouth.

She glances up at Peder and nods. Then:

KATE

Where is Lars.

JONAS

They got him, something got him over at-- at the garage, it was-- too dark and--

KATE

Who was it? Carter?

JONAS
I couldn't tell! I just ran!

A dark SHAPE passes by the small window in this room.

Peder is the only one who noticed it. He moves to the window for better view outside.

PEDER'S POV

Nothing. It was too fast. But wait--

A glimpse of a FIGURE rounding the corner of the building.

Peder rushes down the hall. Pointing back at Jonas and Kate on his way--

PEDER
Watch that door!

Jonas grabs a chair by his bench and uses it to brace the heavy door.

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Following Peder as he enters in time to see--

THAT SHADOWY FIGURE pass by the small window in the Rec Room.

Edvard and Sander see it too. They were watching where Peder was looking.

PEDER
Damnit...

EDVARD
Peder, it's going around to the other door. You need to board this place up right now.

COLIN
I'll help! Cut me loose!

Peder makes a decision-- he moves for Edvard's chair.

Kate enters, sees Peder going for Edvard.

Kate grabs Peder by the arm to hold him back--

KATE
No-- no wait, we can't-- one of them could be--

--And Peder reflexively elbows her in the chin.
 Kate goes down hard against the wall. Stunned.
 Peder makes quick work of Edvard's ropes.
 He moves over to Sander's next.

SANDER
 About bloody time.

PEDER
 I'm still watching you.

The lit nozzle of the flamethrower ventures close to Sander's head while Peder unties him.

Sander leans away, fearful.

Kate sits up.

KATE
 Peder, just wait--

ADAM
 Don't listen to her--

PEDER
 They have a flamethrower now. I am not letting them inside here.

KATE
 If they have turned into more of those Things, why would they need a flamethrower!

Peder unties the knots for Adam's bonds.

Edvard pulls at the ropes around Colin's legs.

EDVARD
 Maybe they just wanted Lars eliminated since he had a weapon.
 (to Peder)
 Get the wood from the storage room. I'll get the toolbox.

Peder nods at Edvard and passes Kate by the door.

Edvard follows.

COLIN (O.S.)
 Hey, guys?

Kate and Sander meet each other's gaze. Sander slowly shakes his head as he rubs his wrists from where the rope cut off circulation.

KATE

I haven't lost my mind, Sander.

SANDER

Worse. You've lost my respect.

Behind Sander, Colin is still tied by the wrists.

COLIN

Little help?

INT. THULE STATION ECW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE DOORKNOB to the exterior door turns suddenly. The door rattles in its frame.

Jonas backs up.

JONAS

HEY! They're over here!

He peers through the window--

JONAS POV: The angle isn't right, he can't see whoever is right outside the door.

The door stops rattling.

Edvard arrives with a toolbox in one hand.

Kate and Peder get there a moment later. Peder holds a few wooden planks.

JONAS (CONT'D)

They were just... Someone was at the door--

BOOM-BOOM. From some other door to the facility.

Peder runs down the hall. Everyone follows quickly, dashing past THE REC ROOM where Adam and Sander join in the crowd.

Colin still works to get his wrists untied. Lagging behind.

INT. THULE STATION REAR ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Peder slides into the small room--

The door here BULGES from being kicked on the other side--

BOOM--

Peder puts his weight against it and slams a 2-by-4 against the door--

PEDER

Edvard!

Edvard rushes in and sets the toolbox down--

EDVARD

Hold on!

BOOM. The door budes again--

Edvard slams a nail into the wood plank, securing it--

Peder takes the hammer and pounds another nail into the other side of the plank--

Kate, Sander, Adam, and Jonas enter the room from the hall as--

An AXE BLADE punches through the door just above the nailed two-by-four.

Peder and Edvard step back.

The axe is yanked out again, leaving a jagged HOLE.

Beat. What now? Then--

A FLAMETHROWER NOZZLE pokes in through the hole--

Edvard and Peder dive one way, while Kate, Jonas, and Sander duck back around the corner--

WHOOSH. Flames spew into the room, igniting the ceiling.

Edvard grabs Jonas by the shoulder--

EDVARD (CONT'D)

Put it out!

Jonas rushes back down the hall, out of sight--

The door BUCKLES as another heavy kick hits it from the other side.

The two-by-four falls off. Beat.

KATE

Carter! Stand back!

Another KICK and the door swings inward--

To reveal the snowstorm raging outside. No sign of Carter or Jameson.

Beat. Peder stands at the ready, flamethrower pointed at the door.

Sander turns on Kate with a ferocity--

SANDER

Whose side are you on?

Peder sweats, then finally squeezes the trigger.

WHOOSH. Flames lash out at the snow through the doorway.

Peder lets go of the trigger and waits again. Looks to Edvard, who nods at him. Then cautiously, Peder steps outside, just one step to peer around a corner--

PEDER POV: Nothing but snow and dark this direction. Can't even see the end of the building.

Whipping around to take a look at the other side--

Where CARTER stands with his flamethrower and WHOOSH--

THE OTHERS inside the building see Peder engulfed in flames--

Peder flails and screams--

Falling back into the room, still on fire--

Edvard rushes the door to close it before Peder can fully enter the room--

He nearly gets the door closed but--

WHAM! Peder is KICKED inside, causing the door to BASH Edvard in the head--

Both Edvard and the burning Peder fall to the floor--

Jonas arrives with a fire extinguisher--

Kate points at Peder and the burning flamethrower--

KATE

Hurry!

Immediately Jonas sprays down Peder--

The foam puts out the fire but Peder is already dead or unconscious.

His flame unit is at least partially damaged.

Kate and the others stand in momentary shock--

The CO-2 mist clears to reveal--

Carter standing at the door. Lars's flamethrower leveled.

Kate, Jonas, Sander, Adam, and Edvard all back up.

Beat. Carter stares them down.

CARTER

Put out the rest of that fire.

Jonas steps forward again and snuffs out the fire on the wall with two short bursts of CO2.

Carter looks them over, one at a time.

They stare back at him. Both sides tense.

A moment later, Jameson enters and goes for Peder's body. Pulling off the (damaged) flamethrower and standing up next to Carter.

The two American Navy men regard the rest of the group as officers would a mutinous crew.

Jameson struggles to make the damaged flamethrower operable.

KATE

Carter, listen to me. I can prove some of us are human.

CARTER

I don't believe you.

Behind Kate, Edvard groans. He hit his head hard.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Get his ass up. Let's move this party to the rec room.

Jonas sets down the fire extinguisher unit. He and Adam grab hold of Edvard and lift him up.

FOLLOWING the group as it moves down the hall. Jonas and Adam leading, with Kate and Sander behind them, and Carter and Jameson in back.

Kate looks over her shoulder at Carter. Trying to read him. Trying to tell who he is.

Carter remains unreadable.

The group enters:

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jonas and Adam drag Edvard toward a couch in the center of the room.

Kate and Sander follow. Sander looks back toward Carter.

SANDER

Peder was human. You killed him.

CARTER

Like he had other plans for me.

Jonas and Adam reach the couch and start to set Edvard down. One of them has to let the other go first.

JONAS

I got him.

Adam slides from under Edvard's arm...

Jonas starts leaning down but Edvard's falling now as his arm SLIDES out of its sleeve and Jonas is left holding the detached arm.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Holy--

The now-one-armed Edvard collapses to the floor--

ON SEVERED ARM: From various parts of the arm, INSECTOID LEGS stab outward, turning the limb into a kind of ARM CENTIPEDE. A strange round MOUTH forms at the shoulder.

KATE

Get rid of it!

Jonas screams and tries to drop it--

The Arm Centipede grabs hold with its hand--

And then BITES Jonas's face--

Edvard's mouth opens and a FROG-LIKE TONGUE lashes out and wraps around Adam's ankle--

Adam TRIPS and FALLS to the floor--

ADAM

OH GOD--

Carter sidesteps, looking for some position from where he can fire his flame unit without torching anyone human. He and Jameson AD LIB shouts over the racket--

Kate backs up to a wall, cornered--

Sander turns and FLEES for the door--

Edvard-Thing starts to sprout spider-like LEGS from its chest cavity, ripping through Edvard's shirt--

Adam struggles with his ensnared leg--

Edvard-Thing's chest lifts off the ground as the spider-legs grow--

Sander backs into the hall--

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

--just as Colin runs down the hall toward the rec room.

Colin sees the look on Sander's face, and immediately turns back around and flees the way he came.

Sander backs all the way to the wall, his face set in shock and horror--

INT. THULE STATION REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jameson and Carter have their torches aimed at the large Edvard-Thing on the floor--

Carter squeezes the trigger on his flame unit, but it only burps out a brief flame--

CARTER

(to Jameson)

Burn it!

JAMESON

It won't work! You burn it!

From her corner Kate glances at--

JAMESON'S FLAME UNIT, specifically a ruptured fuel line on the backpack.

CARTER

I'm out of fuel!

JAMESON

Shit--

Edvard-Thing sheds its other ARM and BOTH LEGS so now it more resembles a giant spider with the head and torso of a half-man--

The LEGS AND ARM sprout centipede-like appendages just like the first arm--

Jameson discards the broken flamethrower and pulls out a HANDGUN--

Adam keeps SCREAMING and kicking at Edvard-Thing--

Jameson FIRES at one of the Centipedes--

It doesn't seem to have much effect--

The scurrying Centipede skitters up the wall behind JONAS who is still struggling with the Arm-Centipede eating his face--

Jameson aims and SHOOTS Jonas in the head--

Jonas falls to the floor, dead. The Arm-Centipede on him scurries away as another bullet punches through its back.

Edvard-Thing now ATTACKS ADAM, Edvard's face seemingly fusing and absorbing Adam's--

Adam SCREAMS as it happens--

Kate grabs Jameson's discarded flamethrower and yanks off the fuel line--

Carter shouts at Jameson over the din:

CARTER

Get kerosene! Go go!

Jameson rushes out the door--

The other Arm Centipede advances for Kate--

Kate cuts the ruptured part of the fuel line and jams the shorter line back into the tank--

Just as the Arm-Centipede launches itself at her-- WHOOSH. The Centipede burns. It lets out a high-pitched BLEAT as it burns to death.

The other Centipede limbs SCATTER--

Edvard-Thing picks up a half-absorbed Adam and carries him down the hall, out of firing range--

CARTER (CONT'D)

The big one!

Too late. It's out of range. And movement to Kate's right distracts her--

WHOOSH. She lights up one wall as a Leg Centipede skitters into the ventilation shaft near the ceiling.

Beat. Kate and Carter are the only ones left standing in the room as it burns.

Nearby, Jonas lies dead on the floor.

The fire in the room starts to spread.

KATE

We don't have much time before this whole place is burning.

CARTER

Let it burn.

KATE

We have to kill every part of that thing. We have to make sure.

Beat. Carter nods.

EXT. THULE STATION - NIGHT

The snowstorm wages war on the landscape.

From a high angle, smoke rises from the facility and dissipates into the wind and the snow.

A flare of fire bursts through the roof of one corner.

The lights throughout the facility suddenly power down.

The entire camp goes dark.

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kate and Carter move cautiously down the hall. Carter carries his flamethrower over his shoulder.

The lights wink off and they are plunged into darkness.

Behind them, the crackling fire in the rear entrance offers wan light into the hallway.

KATE

How many are left? The arms and legs split off--

CARTER

Don't know. Where did the big one go?

KATE

Sander ran off.

CARTER

Jameson is around somewhere.

They pass by the radio room, the glass of the interior window dark on their right.

INT. THULE STATION RADIO ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sander hides behind the desk in the middle of this room. The wan light from the hall casts shadows as someone walks past.

Beat. They're gone. Then: a SKITTERING sound.

Something MOVES along the inside of the window. One of the centipedes. It's in the room.

Sander peers around the desk, searching.

Slowly, cautiously, Sander gets up, trying to watch the whole room at once.

He begins to back for the door behind him.

CLOSE ON HIS FOOT as it missteps on the leg of a chair--

Sander nearly falls backward, but regains his balance.

More SKITTERING in the room--

A glimpse of something under the desk--

Sander backs up to the large radio DESK by the door, his hand searching for a potential weapon.

He finds one: Carter's SCREWDRIVER, left on the desk.

Holding it like a shiv, Sander finds the doorknob behind him with his other hand...

Quietly, he turns the knob and pushes the door open. Still focused on the radio room before him.

On the wall behind him: ANOTHER CENTIPEDE CREATURE, dangling by the door, ready for him. It CHITTERS--

Sander whirls around to face it--

The Centipede LEAPS onto Sander's neck--

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

From somewhere in the belly of the facility, the sound of Sander SCREAMING. Kate and Carter react, amid more emergency bulbs in the hall.

KATE

Sander!

INT. THULE STATION MED LAB - CONTINUOUS

Colin leans against the scorched door to the lab.

The SCREAM sounds slightly more muted here.

Thinking quickly, Colin pushes some equipment in front of the door to barricade it. (Reference: JC movie)

He digs in his pockets for something he stowed earlier:

The SHAVING STRAIGHT-RAZOR. It glints in the near-dark.

INT. THULE STATION HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Carter prowl the hall.

KATE

Sounded like he was behind us.
Maybe the radio room, I don't
know...

Carter gets to a closet door. Tries it. Locked.

Shoulders into it. It won't budge. He spies the broken firehose rack on the wall, the fire axe still in place.

He uses his elbow to break the glass and reaches for the axe. Some of the glass cuts his hands as he clears it away (note: to match bloodstain on axe handle later).

Carter uses the axe to sever the doorknob in one clean stroke, and yanks out the deadbolt.

Opening the door to reveal a JANITORIAL CLOSET of cleaning supplies.

Carter finds two FLASHLIGHTS and hands one to Kate.

CARTER

Damnit. No kerosene.

He steps out and moves down the hall to the next door. This is the LAB. He reaches for the knob...

Something in the darkness skitters.

He stops. Carter and Kate for signs of movement.

Her attention drawn behind him as she sees--

An ARM CENTIPEDE crawling down the door from the ceiling--

CARTER whirls around as the Centipede braces itself against the frame to lash out--

THE PALM of its hand is now an alien MOUTH, the thing itself only vaguely resembling Edvard's arm now--

Carter raises the axe and CHOPS at the creature--

SPLITTING IT in half, both halves dropping to the floor--

INT. MED LAB - CONTINUOUS

Colin jumps as the blade of the axe pierces the door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The two halves of the Centipede creature begin to MERGE back to one single creature on the floor--

CARTER

Hurry hurry--

KATE

Back off!

Carter leaves the axe in the wall and stands back as Kate lets out a spray of fire from her flame unit. WHOOSH.

Now small sections of the hallway are burning.

CARTER

We have to go back. This way is blocked now...

Kate takes two steps back the way they came and turns back to speak with Carter--

KATE

The garage should have more ker--

BOOM! Bursting through the cheap wood door to the bunk bed room and into the hall between Kate and Carter is EDVARD-THING.

In the shadowy darkness, it lets out a HOWL--

Kate and Carter are now on either side of this creature. Kate is partially under debris of the door.

Edvard-Thing sees Carter. Its head is now a twisted merging of Edvard and Adam, sharing one mouth.

It starts toward him.

Carter looks for an escape and dashes into the kitchen.

Edvard-Thing advances down the hall in pursuit.

Arriving at the open doorway to the kitchen/dining area.

The place is still damaged from where Juliette was burned.

Edvard-Thing takes a step inside.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Another open door at the far end leads to a food stock room.

Edvard-Thing regards it cautiously. But does not move.

ANGLE ON the kitchen counter nearby.

Carter hides here, his flamethrower back in his grip.

Checks the fuel level. Nearly empty.

INT. MED LAB - CONTINUOUS

Colin finally frees one of his arms from the ropes.

Immediately he starts to work on the other arm.

Then, he hears something in the room with him. A shuffling sound. Above.

Colin slowly looks up...

A Leg-Centipede creature that detached from Edvard-Thing is on the ceiling, half-dangling so its foot-shaped head hovers a few feet away.

Five eyes on stalks that were once toes stares at him.

Colin holds his breath. Then, trembling:

COLIN
You're not gonna get me.

Colin raises the bloody razor to his own neck.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Not like that.

The Leg-Thing opens its malformed mouth...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Edvard-Thing advances to the stock room door.

It comes into full view for Carter, crouched between the counter and the refrigerator.

CARTER
Cheating bastard.

Edvard-Thing SCREECHES and charges for Carter--

When WHOOSH! It gets a face full of fire from--

KATE who has stepped into the kitchen and lit up the beast with her own flame unit.

Carter DIVES over the counter as Edvard-Thing flails about, engulfed in fire--

In primal panic, the creature dashes and bursts right THROUGH an exterior wall, out into the snow--

Tripping on its own burning limbs and falling--

Kate and Carter follow it outside to finish the job.

EXT. THULE STATION - CONTINUOUS

WHOOSH. Kate burns it again.

Finally, the cooked beast with its two faces (Adam and Edvard) stops flailing and screeching. NOTE: This is the charred corpse that MacReady later brings to Outpost 31.

Behind them, more of the facility goes up in flames. The fire has spread in so many sections, it has penetrated the roof.

KATE

Are you okay?

CARTER

I'm good. Thanks.

Carter starts walking. Kate follows him. They cross the camp and are getting near the garage.

KATE

Where are you going?

CARTER

We are getting out of here. Seen enough of this place.

KATE

What do you mean..how?

CARTER

I rigged one of the Sprytes.

KATE

What? We can't leave yet..we haven't killed all of it...

Closer to the garage.

Something distracts Carter and sees--

A FIGURE running away from the garage in the snow. A moment later and the snowstorm swallows him up. Visibility too low to track him farther from here.

KATE (CONT'D)

Who was that?

CARTER

I don't give a shit. Let him freeze. We're getting out of here.

INT. VEHICLE GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The light of the fire casts shadows on the Spryte sitting before the open door. This is the vehicle that's been repaired.

Carter walks up to it. Sees the side door open. He raises his arm.

CARTER

Careful...

They slowly approach the Spryte. Kate has her flamethrower ready.

They look inside and see...Jameson on the backseat, slumped over, his face not visible. His arms cradling something against his stomach.

They climb inside and Carter gently pushes his friend backwards.

Reveal Jameson has holes in his face and neck. Blood everywhere. The Thing had been working him, but it didn't finish the job.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Oh..Jesus.

Jameson makes some faint sounds, his eyes pleading and his body wracked in unbearable pain. He tries to say something.

JAMESON

It was Sander...

Carter nods. Jameson opens his arms. Clusters of dynamite, some fall to the floor, a sparker among them. Jameson was well prepared. Just not quite enough.

JAMESON (CONT'D)

Don't tell me I'm fine.

Carter looks at him.

JAMESON (CONT'D)

Do it.

He knows he has to kill his friend, to take him out of his misery. Kate puts a hand on his shoulder.

CARTER

I'm okay..

But he is not. Jameson smiles faintly at him. Carter tries to smile back.

Then in a sudden movement, raises his pistol and fires.

BAM.

Jameson's head slams backwards.

INT. VEHICLE GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Carter gently puts Jameson on the garage floor.

KATE

We have to get Sander.

CARTER

Why? There is nowhere to go. The nearest camp is hundreds of miles from here. It'll never make it.

KATE

It's not going to any camp.

Carter looks at her. Kate looks serious.

CARTER

Fuck.

EXT. VEHICLE GARAGE

The Spryte lurches out of the garage and pulls around to head off in the direction of the crash site.

High angle as it leaves the burning base...

INT. SPRYTE - NIGHT

Carter driving fast, his face close to windshield. Trying to see the path through the heavy snow. Kate in the back gathering all the dynamite that Jameson left behind. She dumps some of it on the front seat, and climbing back stuffs the rest of it in her coat...everywhere. Then climbs back into the front.

KATE

Its likely that it knows how to fly the ship. Can you imagine what happens if this saucer crashes on any major city?

She has a point.

EXT. PATH TO CRASH SITE - NIGHT

The Spryte driving as fast as possible in the snow.

Half buried, the flags mark the trail to the site.

EXT. CRASH SITE - NIGHT

Draped in snow. Dark. No lights left on.

The entire site is just a massive dark blemish under the icy surface.

The Spryte slows to a stop. Carter and Kate get out, Kate stuffs the last dynamite sticks in her vest.

A low, reverberating HUM hits them like a massive soundwave cranked at top volume from a mile away.

A series of lights fade up from the buried spacecraft. The lights mark a ring around the outside edges, and spotlight the main hatchway.

The ship is slowly powering up.

They move towards the crevasse.

INT. ALIEN SHIP HATCH ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate lands on the floor.

All around, the ship's walls pulsate with light, temporarily illuminating the inside before dropping back to darkness. Making it hard to focus.

The low rumble vibrates the floor.

Quickly Carter arms his flamethrower.

Overhead, the cracking of ice--

And a massive white-blue CHUNK slams over the open hatchway. Blocking them in.

They press forward, down the same tunnel system Kate explored the first time they descended.

INT. ALIEN SHIP NARROW CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Unknown light sources flare up to an impossible bright ripple along the tunnel walls.

The two carefully move along this new corridor. Searching for the Thing. The rumblings continue.

Now a different sound of something MOVING down a hall.
Coming for them?

They freeze. Listen. It stops.

Carter eases forward and crouches at the edge of an
opening. Peeking slowly...

CARTER POV

Darkness. Then... a ripple of light travels through the
walls, illuminating:

A barren floor... And things dangling from the ceiling.
Tendrils, or maybe loose wiring. And other shapes in the
ceiling-- bumps and knobs.

The overall effect: The ceiling seems to be closing in.
Large clusters of the tendrils span the height of the
room, forming columns or "trees." Obscuring the real size
of the room.

ON CARTER, looking back at Kate. He signals for her to
wait. Then he rounds the corner, flamethrower at the
ready.

INT. ALIEN SHIP "WIRES" ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carter quickly moves to the center of this room.

The dangling forest overhead seems to twitch.

Light ripples past him along the walls.

As it does so-- a SHADOW on one wall reveals Carter's
silhouette...

Carter reaches into a pocket and pulls out a small FLARE.
He cracks it open and drops it at his feet.

Carter turns around to say something to Kate -- the
bright orange light of the flare at his feet suddenly
dissipates and goes dark.

THE FLOOR opens around his feet -- as though a missile
silo cover is arming.

He FALLS into further darkness--

KATE

Carter!

She launches herself into the room after him--

The cover begins to close-- the hole shrinking back until it is no bigger than a dinner plate--

And Kate reaches the hole, peering down.

KATE (CONT'D)

Carter--

CARTER (O.S.)

(muted)

I'm okay!

She shines her flashlight down into the darkened chamber. She looks for him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Its my ankle.

(beat)

There's another hatch down here.

KATE

Alright, I'll find it.

Kate heads off. Nothing but tree-trunks of alien wires. The veins inside the ship's body. Now the pods on the wall begin to emanate light.

INT. THE POD ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ON KATE, moving swiftly between columns, beneath the pods and then once again into the darkness.

Kate keeps looking for a way down. Another hole or hatch in the floor. She yells out to Carter.

INT. ALIEN SHIP CORRIDORS - SERIES OF SHOTS

1) Kate arrives at an intersection.

2) Kate takes a side tunnel. The lights pulse around her.

Kate turns a corner to enter.

The PILOT'S STATION, a circular room with a complex almost cage-like cockpit.

The Thing, in full alien form, is powering up the ship.

It turns slowly to Kate, menacing.

INT. ALIEN SHIP CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kate frantically pulls out the dynamite. This is all she has for a weapon now. She pulls out the sparker and tries to ignite it. Its wet and does not light.

INT. ALIEN SHIP CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate holds up the dynamite.

KATE

Get back.

It watches her. One head tilting.

Desperately, she sparks it.

From the other side of the room, CARTER appears, his flamethrower ready.

Kate looks to him, unsure if he's friend or foe.

CARTER

Kate! Get out of there!

KATE

Burn it!

The lighter sparks.

CARTER

No, no--

The Thing SCREECHES at Kate.

Carter TORCHES it. The creature flails and spasms, struggling to get out of the cockpit.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Stop the fuse!

KATE

RUN!!

Kate instead THROWS the dynamite at the monster in the room.

Carter runs from the room. Kate follows.

INT. ALIEN SHIP CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Rounding the corner, Kate runs full-tilt--catching up to Carter.

BOOOOM!

From the depths of the ship, a firecloud. Kate and Carter are knocked off their feet.

Kate gets up and tries to start running--

A secondary explosion SHAKES the whole ship--

EXT. CRASH SITE - CONTINUOUS

The ship falls like a rock back to its excavation site--

The lights all fade to darkness and the rumbling goes quiet--

Steam and smoke rise from the skin of the ship...

And finally it rests back in its crash-land spot from thousands of years ago. Only now the heat from the underbelly of the ship has melted enough ice for it to sit lower than before.

As another, smaller explosion rumbles within...

ANGLE ON THE TOP HATCH

A long beat.

It opens up, belching more smoke...

And Kate climbs out. She coughs and rolls out of the hatch... But she's alive.

A moment later, Carter climbs up after her. He collapses nearby, in similar condition.

The two make eye contact in the morning light.

CARTER

You blew it up.

KATE

Yeah.

CARTER

What happened to preserving the greatest discovery in science?

Kate shakes her head slowly. She's punch-tired and flooded with relief at surviving. Grinning:

KATE
Fuck science.

Carter grins back.

Kate then stares up into the sky--

PRE-LAP the sound of a helicopter as we cut to:

EXT. THULE STATION - MORNING

The burned remains of the camp still crackle with fire.

The helicopter lands. On its side, the NORJ callsign. This is the Norwegian pilot and chopper.

Stepping onto the snow and raising his goggles: MATIAS. Tall. Headstrong.

Matias looks around at the remains of his country's base.

He ventures in farther, toward the main building.

MATIAS
(in Norwegian)
HELLOOOO!

MOMENTS LATER

Matias steps up to the charred remains of the TWO-HEADED CORPSE (the one brought back to Outpost 31 in JC's film).

A single GUNSHOT rings out.

Matias hits the deck, looking around, to discover--

LARS stepping out of the generator room with a rifle.

MATIAS (CONT'D)
(in Norwegian)
Lars! What the hell--

LARS
(in Norwegian)
Stay where you are!

Lars approaches cautiously.

Matias slowly gets up again, arms raised. Not sure what to say or do at the moment.

MATIAS

Lars...

LARS

(in Norwegian)

Show me your teeth.

MATIAS

(in Norwegian)

What?

LARS

(in Norwegian)

Open!

Matias obeys.

On Lars, squinting. Then, visibly relieved.

Matias closes up, still utterly confused.

MATIAS

(in Norwegian)

What happened?

Before Lars can start, the sound of something bursting out of a door distracts him.

Nearby, a HUSKY flees from the main building, dashing over the snow, toward the helicopter.

Lars gasps and raises his rifle--

LARS

(in Norwegian)

Don't let it get away!

A gunshot pocks the snow near the husky's paws.

Lars aims for another round--

Matias pushes the gun down, causing Lars to miss--

MATIAS

(in Norwegian)

That's one of Henrik's dogs!

The husky changes course, away from the helicopter. Out into the open snow.

Lars reloads his rifle--

LARS

(in Norwegian)

That's no dog.

Lars hurries for the helicopter.

Matias stands a beat, still in shock.

He looks back down at the burned corpse, a twisted amalgam of two men and one part canine, plus who knows what else.

Matias backs away, then turns and runs to catch up with Lars, who is waving him to the helicopter.

EXT. CRASH SITE - MORNING

The Spryte sits parked in the snow.

Kate and Carter approach it. Kate rests for a beat against the open passenger door. Carter wearily takes off the flamethrower and drops it in the snow. Then goes around to the driver side of the Spryte and climbs in.

INT. SPRYTE - CONTINUOUS

Kate stands at the door staring at him.

CARTER
Come on. Lets go.

Kate walks back and picks up the flamethrower.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Leave it. We don't need that thing anymore.

KATE
You never know.

Now at the passenger door. Carter again.

CARTER
Get in Kate.

ON KATE, shaking her head.

KATE
Did I tell you how I knew you were human, when you showed up at base?

CARTER
No.

KATE
Your earring. Metal in a piercing.

Carter stops. Puts a hand to his ear.

Long beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

It was your other ear.

CARTER

Kate-- hang on, let me explain--

Carter's FACE starts to ELONGATE--

Kate squeezes the trigger on the flamethrower--

WIDE ANGLE

A roar of gas, and the fierce blaze engulfs Carter and the interior of the Spryte at the same time.

The burning Carter-Thing SCREECHES in agony, claws at the flames, and struggles to get out; to get to Kate. The sound echoes a dozen times across the open tundra.

She kicks the door closed in his burning face.

ON KATE, staring at the burning Spryte and the mangled, destroyed remainder of Carter.

Now she is truly alone. And truly hopeless.

Kate looks around, at the miles of tundra... The smoking alien craft in its giant grave... And nothing else.

Kate begins marching back toward Thule Station.

RISING to the sky and the morning sun, and--

FADE OUT.