

**ANIMUS**

written by

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ACT ONE**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - SEA ICE - DAY**

CLOSE ON a patch of gleaming, Arctic sea ice. A small rivulet of water runs along its surface.

A boot with crampons stomps INTO FRAME. DAVID ANIK (50s, Iñupiat Native Alaskan, wearing weathered North Face gear) crouches near an OPENING IN THE ICE, his DOG SLED and TEAM OF HUSKIES behind him.

A 300-pound HOODED SEAL lies just out of arm's reach. David produces a LANCE with a GPS TRACKING TAG at the end. The seal looks at David as he approaches cautiously.

DAVID ANIK  
Easy, friend. Easy.

With a practiced swing, David CLIPS the tag onto the seal's rear flipper. It yelps and DIVES under the ice.

From his sled, David finds and opens a SAT-LINK LAPTOP -- a RED DOT BLINKS ON A MAP. He grins, the seal has been tracked.

Suddenly, the LEAD SLED DOG perks up with a BARK -- SNIFFS at the air -- pulling at its lead.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)  
Something out there?

David scans the horizon, sees nothing unusual, just rolling MOUNDS AND TROUGHS OF ICE. But the dogs keep barking. David moves to the sled -- pulls out a DOUBLE-BARREL SHOTGUN -- checks that it's loaded.

Now armed, he releases the lead dog, who scrambles OVER A NEARBY ICE CREST. David follows his dog warily. Visibility is poor.

The dog finds something in the snow, picks it up. David takes it and brushes away the snow revealing a green and gold HAT.

*"University of Alberta Women's Hockey"*

David recognizes it. He checks his surroundings, worried, suddenly realizing that the nearest mound of ice isn't ice at all. It's A BODY.

Crusted over with ice and snow, a young woman is kneeling upright, head bowed.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)

Oh my god...

A dozen feet to one side is another "ice mound," a young man frozen stiff. Another dozen feet, another body. And another. In total, SIX MEN AND WOMEN frozen dead, encircling David.

He reaches the final body, putting his hands on the shoulders of the young man, eyes welling with emotion...

When the young man, CARLOS, inhales sharply. He's alive!

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - BACK AT THE SLED - MOMENTS LATER**

David ties Carlos onto the sled. A dog sniffs around him curiously. Carlos can't speak, eyes wild.

DAVID ANIK

Stay with me. The doc'll have you right before you can blink.

Suddenly, the dogs start BARKING again. As David turns toward the dogs, he sees A POLAR BEAR not thirty feet away. He can barely react before it ROARS and lunges.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)

Hike! Hike! Hike!

David whips the dogs into a run, scrambling aboard. Weighed down with Carlos' extra bulk, they're not fast enough. The bear is just a few paces behind, and gaining.

David grabs the shotgun -- quickly aims -- FIRES just as the sled lurches -- misses. ONE OF TWO SHELLS WASTED.

David steadies his breath as THE BEAR PULLS EVEN with the sled -- he puts its snarling face right in his sights -- pulls the second trigger -- CLICK-SNAP. Misfire. Fuck.

THE BEAR LUNGES! David swings the shotgun -- hits the bear's head -- the sled tips over -- David HITS THE ICE HARD.

David skids to a stop, dazed, not far from the sled. The dogs STRAIN AGAINST THEIR LEADS to come to David's defense but the LINE HOLDS THEM BACK.

The bear will be upon David in seconds... But there's no roar or killing stroke. The dogs bark and whine in confusion as David comes to his senses and gets to his feet.

He checks in all directions. NO SIGN OF THE BEAR. David finds Carlos in the wreckage of the sled.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)

Carlos. We have to move, it might  
come back.

But Carlos is dead. AS CAMERA CRANES UP, we see David and his  
wrecked sled, a solitary dot in the snow, as the broken  
circle of the five remaining frozen bodies recedes into the  
distance.

**INT. MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE - MORNING**

A snowy mountain landscape slips past a tiny window.  
WHITTAKER MARTIN (30s, white, scruffy, microbiologist) sleeps  
fitfully in his seat. Classmates voted him most likely to  
accidentally burn his house down. Friends call him "Whit."

His eyes in a R.E.M. state, Whit suddenly SCREAMS.

NAYA (O.S.)

Whittaker.

In the next seat, NAYA NNAMDA (30s, black, forensic  
epidemiologist who never settles for an easy answer) shakes  
him awake. Whit gets his bearings.

NAYA (CONT'D)

You were having a nightmare. You  
screamed.

WHITTAKER

You know, when we were married, I  
slept like the dead.

NAYA

Funny, I've never slept better.

She gets up and moves two rows over to lay down. RICH MEEKS,  
the only other passenger on the plane (40s, white) peers over  
the seat behind Whit.

RICH

See Doctor Martin, that right there  
is why I'm never getting married.

WHITTAKER

Confirmed bachelor, huh? The women  
of America weep.

RICH

You got me.

Rich looks over at Naya, her eyes closed. He leans in  
conspiratorially to Whit.

RICH (CONT'D)

So how's it work with you two?

WHITTAKER

Naya looks at the big picture. Outbreak modeling, probabilities, that sort of thing. I usually have my head in the microscope.

NAYA

What he really wants to know is, yes. Sometimes we still sleep together.

WHITTAKER

Clear enough for you?

**EXT. TARMAC - POST-ROGERS AIRPORT - DAY**

The plane's loading ramp lowers with a groan. Naya, Whit and Rich step onto the tarmac.

They're met by AUDREY (40s, U.S. intelligence, has fought for everything she has) and an ARMED ESCORT. If Audrey is cold in her trim business attire, she doesn't show it.

AUDREY

Good morning. My name is Audrey. You've each committed to going to the ends of the earth to serve your country. Well, here we are.

**EXT. UTQIAGVIK STREETS - ESTABLISHING - MOMENTS LATER**

A GOVERNMENT SUV traverses the northernmost city in the U.S.:

**"UTQIAQVIK, ALASKA"**

In this small whaling hamlet everything is temporary: gravel roads and pre-fab houses, the winter SEA ICE pressing up onto the shore, and the WEAK DAYLIGHT, which is perpetually threatening to fade to night.

**INT. S.U.V. - UTQIAGVIK STREETS - SAME (MOVING)**

CAPTAIN OWEN BELL (30s, special forces) sits shotgun. Audrey hands out case files as she briefs Naya, Whit, and Rich.

AUDREY

Three days ago, the bodies of six climate researchers were discovered several days' journey from their base of operation.

NAYA

And your operating theory is that thawing ice released an ancient illness --

WHITTAKER

Like we've seen with Smallpox.

AUDREY

That's one possibility. We should have more answers after examining the bodies and interviewing the local who found them.

RICH

(off case file)

David Anik. Where's he being quarantined?

Audrey and Owen exchange a look...

CPT. OWEN BELL

Barrow, or I should say *Utqiagvik*, has a complicated jurisdiction. Mister Anik is Iñupiat. The tribal government demanded his release.

AUDREY

Don't worry. Doctor Palmer cleared him of active pathogens. We're on the way to see what Mister Anik knows. But first...

The SUV stops at a squat MEDICAL BUILDING. Soldiers stand guard out front, one of them opens the door for Whit.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Doctor Martin, I believe you're expected in the morgue.

**INT. MORGUE - UTQIAGVIK, ALASKA - A LITTLE LATER**

DR. GAIL PALMER (50s, neuroscientist) stands over a DEAD BODY that is enclosed within a transparent MEDICAL SHELL. Whit reaches across to shake hands.

WHITTAKER

Hi, the name's Whit. I'm --

GAIL

C.D.C. Microbio. I read the brief.  
You are eminently qualified.

Gail, elbow-deep in the glovebox built into the medical shell, doesn't shake his hand. She scrapes a sample from a nasty BITE MARK on the shoulder of the body.

WHITTAKER

That's Charlotte Browning. The one  
the polar bear got to.

GAIL

Don't let the bite mark fool you.  
She and the others died of  
asphyxia.

WHITTAKER

They drowned? But I thought they  
were found on top of the ice.

GAIL

They were. And yet they suffocated  
to death. Probably a neurological  
expression of the disease.

WHITTAKER

Does this mean you've already  
isolated the pathogen?

GAIL

No. The blood work all came back  
negative.

Gail removes her hands from the glovebox -- walks away from  
the body -- stops herself.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Doctor Gail Palmer, neuroscience.  
In case you haven't read the brief.  
You may call me Gail.

WHITTAKER

Nice to be working with you, Gail.

GAIL

Take a look at these brain  
biopsies.

She leads Whit to a MICROSCOPE and monitor.

ULTRA CLOSE ON a backlit slide of BRAIN TISSUE as Gail CYCLES THROUGH SLIDES:

GAIL (CONT'D)

Right frontal. Right occipital.  
Left frontal.

WHITTAKER

These all appear normal to me.

GAIL

So we have a baseline. But now,  
look at these: Left temporal. Left  
occipital. Inferior frontal gyrus.

THE NEXT SLIDES look very different: carved into the brain tissue of each is a SWIRLING FRACTAL PATTERN. Whit traces the spiral pattern blown up on the monitor

WHITTAKER

There are viruses that produce visible signs in the brain, rabies for instance. But not like this.

(considering)

Gail, isn't breathing regulated by the medulla oblongata?

GAIL

You are correct. But the medulla doesn't appear to be affected.

WHITTAKER

What do the affected areas of the brain actually control?

GAIL

Vision, language, emotional processing. Even facial expressions.

Gail plasters on a smile for a beat then lets it drop.

WHITTAKER

Damned if I know how that adds up to six people walking to their deaths.

**INT. IÑUPIAT CULTURAL CENTER - UTQIAGVIK, ALASKA - DAY**

Naya and Audrey are mid-interview with David. A Tribal Elder supervises from the doorway.



DAVID ANIK

The kids drill the ice cores. I help track wildlife migrations.

He gestures to a color-coded MAP OF THE ARCTIC behind him.

NAYA

How often might you encounter an animal carcass?

DAVID ANIK

They're everywhere. It's like a big dry freezer all winter long.

NAYA

Frozen carcasses aren't a problem. It's when they're thawed that they can release dormant viruses.

DAVID ANIK

I'd say February is pretty safe. But Spring is creeping earlier every year. Our way of life is threatened.

AUDREY

So that's why you were helping the team with their research.

Naya goes to the MAP showing DOGWHISTLE STATION to the north.

NAYA

How often did you go to Dogwhistle Station?

DAVID ANIK

Every few weeks. Last supply run was forty days ago.

NAYA

Was anyone acting unusual?

DAVID ANIK

They're young, everything they do seems unusual to me.

(faltering)

Were young, I guess.

David collects himself. He gets up, moves to the map.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)

I found them halfway home, right here. If conditions were better, they might have made it.

There's a CREAK at the door as Owen sticks his head in.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
My team is ready whenever you are.

AUDREY  
Okay. Mister Anik, thank you --

DAVID ANIK  
Wait. You're going up there?

AUDREY  
That's the plan, yes.

DAVID ANIK  
Let me come with you. Please. If there's any chance Mei is alive, I want to help.

Surprised, Audrey and Owen exchange a look...

**IN THE BACK CORNER - MOMENTS LATER**

Owen and Audrey have a SIDEBAR, speaking low.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Look, I feel for the guy but I don't want another civilian along for the ride. Especially when we haven't been able to contact the last researcher and the satellites haven't picked up any movement.

AUDREY  
However unlikely it may be, if Mei Liu is alive, it'd be to our benefit to have someone she trusts with us.

**INT. TOP OF THE WORLD HOTEL - LOBBY - SUNDOWN**

Naya approaches Whit, who's filling his NOTEBOOK excitedly.

NAYA  
You look like a kid on Christmas. Already thinking about what you're going to name it?

WHITTAKER  
Don't do that, that's not fair.

NAYA

Six people are dead, Whit.

WHITTAKER

And it's possible to be upset about that, and excited that we may have discovered a novel disease.

NAYA

Maybe for you.

WHITTAKER

Look, I've never seen anything like what happened to those kids. And I want to know how. But if this situation scares you too much, go ahead and quit.

A long moment. Then:

NAYA

I'll be extremely annoyed if your curiosity gets either of us killed.

WHITTAKER

Hey, I don't know about you but I've got at least six lives left.

He grins. She can't help but smile back.

NAYA

And that is exactly why I need to go with you.

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - ARCTIC OCEAN - NIGHT**

The sun has set a hundred miles from dry land. In total isolation, the pontooned RESEARCH STATION sits on the ice, silent.

SCRITCH-SCRITCH. A hooded seal claws at the ice near the station, in search of something to eat when --

The station's FLOODLIGHTS TURN ON, blindingly bright. The seal looks up in fear, then darts away.

After a moment, the lights SHUT DOWN, plunging the station back into darkness....

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**MONTAGE - DOG SLED TREK - VARIOUS TIMES**

- The whole team -- Naya, Whit, Audrey, Owen, Rich, Gail, four armed JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF) SOLDIERS, and now David Anik -- ride DOG SLEDS loaded high with equipment.
- The team makes its way North across the sea ice on their sleds. David guides them around a break in the ice.
- The sun barely gets above the horizon, making for SHORT DAYS, LONG NIGHTS and slow going.
- The SUN SETS as everyone pitches their tents for the night. Except for David who lays in a bivouac. He stays awake, looking at the stars.
- The NEXT DAY, the dogsleds travel in line over the sea ice. David spots Dogwhistle Station in the distance.

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - BASE CAMP - SUNSET**

The team has unloaded their gear and assembled a portable DECONTAMINATION SHED a safe distance from the Station.

Naya and Whit are in protective PRESSURE SUITS [a plastic faceplate allows a clear view of who is inside.] They assist the JTF medic, SGT. ELIZABETH LEVERIGHT, into her suit:

NAYA

This is a Level Four pressure suit. Ideally we'd never wear these outside of a lab...

WHITTAKER

So use extreme caution. One puncture and you're compromised.

NAYA

At the end of six hours, we'll cycle you out inside the shed and decontaminate your suit.

SGT. LEVERIGHT

What happens after six hours? Does the suit start to fail?

NAYA

No, but you'll probably have to pee. You're not claustrophobic, are you?

Leveright looks a little nervous, shakes her head. There's a HISS of internal pressure as Naya seals the suit.

Nearby, Owen and Audrey survey the Station WITH BINOCULARS.

CPT. OWEN BELL

I don't see any movement. It's almost sundown. Last chance to stake it out and go in at daylight.

AUDREY

I'm not waiting through another sixteen hours of darkness. We go in now.

She looks over at their team. Ready as they'll ever be.

**INT. ENTRANCE - DOGWHISTLE STATION - DUSK**

CREAK. The door swings open and the team, now fully in their pressure suits, enters the DARK station. Owen clicks a light switch on and off but nothing happens.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Power's out. Stay sharp everybody.

The soldiers fan out, FLASHLIGHTS attached to their rifles piercing the darkness.

**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

David, Naya, Whit, Gail and Sgt. Leveright enter a REC ROOM. David walks over to a DART BOARD. ANGLE ON a scoreboard: "Harry - 53, Charlotte - 48."

Whit finds a book, face down and open on the couch. He picks it up and turns it over. There's nothing of note inside.

Naya finds half-full beer bottles on the PINBALL MACHINE.

NAYA

Looks like everyone just dropped what they were doing.

Suddenly, a CLATTER causes David, Naya and Whit to jump -- Sgt. Leveright has yanked open the PULLEY-OPERATED SHUTTER between the Rec Room and the adjacent KITCHEN.

SGT. LEVERIGHT

Sorry.

Naya peers into the kitchen through the service window -- cabinets open, shelves emptied -- then at the tableau in the Rec Room, trying to piece together what happened.

**INT. STAIRCASE / OBSERVATION DECK - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Owen leads Audrey and Rich into OBSERVATION. It's the highest room in the station, with exterior windows, as well as CONTROLS for the station. Owen indicates the station's RADIO. It's been DESTROYED.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Somebody sabotaged the comms.

RICH  
Do you think this was our  
researchers?

ANGLE ON the control panel, an indicator light GLOWING RED next to a CIRCUIT BREAKER. Audrey flips the switch.

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

David walks ahead of the others through a dark hallway. He rounds the corner, stopping in his tracks when he sees --

An ethereal, pencil-thin BEAM OF LIGHT cutting vertically through the darkness. David approaches, mesmerized. He's about to put his hand into the beam when A LOUD WHINE echoes through the hall.

DAVID ANIK  
Guys? You hear that?

The STATION LIGHTS come on, blindingly bright. As David's eyes adjust, Naya, Whit, Gail and Leveright round the corner...

SGT. LEVERIGHT  
Mister Anik, please stay close  
until we know the station is  
secured.

David nods. Looks back. No sign of the beam of light.

NAYA  
Secured from what?

WHITTAKER  
Goddamn, would you look at  
that.

The team follows Whit's gaze toward...

**INT. LAB - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

They step into a compact room with testing equipment, sea ice charts and a WALK-IN FREEZER. It's in TOTAL DISARRAY.

WHITTAKER

Somebody went to town in here.

GAIL

Indeed. But why the lab?

David indicates the non-operational freezer. The doors have been left WIDE OPEN.

DAVID ANIK

They made off with the ice cores.

Naya enters the WALK-IN FREEZER and steps into ANKLE-DEEP WATER. She scans the shelves of ICE CORE CANISTERS [yard-long metal tubes used to transport drilled ice] each labeled with a DRILL SITE AND DATE. They're all empty.

NAYA

(re: melted water)

They weren't stolen. They were destroyed.

David enters, finds a small NOTEBOOK, half-submerged in the corner. He flips it open. It's waterlogged, illegible except for the first few lines of each page. He reads:

DAVID ANIK

"Februry Fifth. Going stir crazy waiting for everyone to return from Site Twenty-Two. Thank god for -- "

David stops with a hitch in his breath.

NAYA

What is it?

DAVID ANIK

"...thank god for Mister Anik, bearing the gift of cigarettes and good company."

(then)

This is Mei Liu's testing log.

(continues reading)

"February Eighth. Finally got Carlos on the radio. He didn't realize it's been three days, just said time is weird out here."

(then, next page)

This one's also from the Eighth.

(MORE)

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)  
 "Finally got Carlos on the radio.  
 He didn't realize it's been three  
 days, just said time is weird out  
 here..."

David trails off, realizes he just read identical passages.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)  
 There's a dozen more just like  
 that.

NAYA  
 You mean she just copied that day's  
 log over and over?

WHITTAKER  
 All work and no play makes Mei a  
 dull girl.

GAIL  
 Her mental state was deteriorating.

DAVID ANIK  
 Hang on. Last entry, no date:  
 "They're back from Site Twenty-Two.  
 Everyone's agitated, nobody will  
 say why..." And it ends there.

The team members wonder what the hell that's about as...

AUDREY (O.S.)  
 We've finished our search.

Audrey, Owen and Rich enter as the others join them.

DAVID ANIK  
 Have you found Mei?

CPT. OWEN BELL  
 No. But an unknown party destroyed  
 the station's comms.

NAYA  
 And it seems someone did the same  
 to the team's research.  
 (off Audrey's look)  
 What the hell aren't you telling  
 us?

Audrey peers into the freezer, weighing what to say...



AUDREY

Our intel suggests the Russians could be operating a *Biopreparat* program in the area.

NAYA

You said this was about thawing ice and animal carcasses.

WHITTAKER

And you didn't think it was relevant for us to know this thing might be a bioweapon?

GAIL

I think it's relevant.

AUDREY

We kept you in the dark because we didn't want to bias your expert opinions. But now that you know, what's your recommendation?

Naya accepts the olive branch...

NAYA

Well, first we need to find the source of the infection.

WHITTAKER

And thanks to this logbook, we know where to start.

Off Naya and Whit, determined to do this the right way...

DISSOLVE TO:

Atop an ice ridge, LIEUTENANT MATTHEWS, one of Owen's soldiers, holds a large fixed-wing DRONE -- cocks it back -- takes two steps and THROWS. As the drone catches air and rises, PULL BACK TO REVEAL --

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DRILL SITE 22 - AN HOUR LATER**

Naya, Audrey, Rich, Owen and a couple soldiers scour the area. The researchers' abandoned DRILL RIG sits in the basin, surrounded by a curved ice ridge.

AUDREY

Doctor Nnamda, what exactly are we looking for?

NAYA

Physical evidence that this is the point of first transmission. I want to know what they dug up out here. It could be our first look at the virus.

PRIVATE SILVER, one of the soldiers, checks the DRILL RIG [a mounted, hand-cranked auger].

PVT. SILVER

Looks like they left it in the ice about seven meters deep. I think I can bring it up.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Good. Let's get that ice core out and ready for transport.

Silver gets to work extracting the ice core.

LT. MATTHEWS (O.S.)

Captain Bell. You need to see this.

Owen walks over, stares at Matthews' hand-held monitor.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Holy shit. Guys.

Audrey, Naya and Rich gather around Owen, who's watching a GRAINY VIDEO STREAM from the drone.

AUDREY

What am I looking at?

Naya just shakes her head in disbelief.

RICH

It goes on and on. Look --

Rich clears some snow cover with his boot -- reveals an INTRICATE GEOMETRIC PATTERN fanning out beneath their feet.

PULL BACK TO AN AERIAL: The team is tiny from this high. Spread out beneath them is a HUGE FRACTAL PATTERN, just like we saw in the dead researchers' brain biopsies.

**INT. HALLWAY / DAVID'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

David carries his DUFFEL BAG past THE DEAD RESEARCHERS' BEDROOMS. Each room, now piled high with gear, has been claimed by one of the team as an improvised workspace.

David tosses his bag down on the spartan twin bed of the last empty room. He spots a family photo of CARLOS -- the researcher he failed to save in the Teaser -- pockets it.

He rejoins Whit, who is applying STRIPS OF TAPE to various surfaces, peeling them and storing them in a BIOHAZARD CONTAINER. Whit hands David a stack of tape strips.

DAVID ANIK

So you put these strips into your analyzer, revealing what?

WHITTAKER

Ideally? A neon sign pointing to our pathogen. Especially if it matches anything we find in the ice cores. But we'll also have a mess of DNA from everyone who ever set foot in this station.

DAVID ANIK

So what happens if we pick up some Russian's DNA and prove Audrey's theory?

WHITTAKER

I guess that'd make us the C.S.I.s of the Apocalypse. But the nukes will probably overshoot us.

(off David's look)

Sorry man, morbid humor kinda comes with the territory.

DAVID ANIK

As my kids would tell you, I've got coping mechanisms of my own: bottle up and shut down.

WHITTAKER

Let me guess, they don't like yours any more than my ex likes mine.

DAVID ANIK

Well it's been a couple years since they invited me on vision quest.

WHITTAKER

"Vision quest?"

DAVID ANIK

I'm pulling your chain.

David stops, realizing he's standing exactly where he saw the ribbon of light earlier. He notices a small glinting OBJECT in a floor grate. He fishes it out, holding up: A SCREW.

He looks up. In the ceiling is the HOLE the screw came from.

DAVID ANIK (CONT'D)  
We need a ladder.

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DRILL SITE 22 - DAY**

Naya crouches for a better look at the fractal pattern.

NAYA  
This seems to match the pattern in the brain biopsies.

RICH  
Have you ever seen a microorganism affect matter at this scale?

NAYA  
No. Never.

AUDREY  
Captain Bell, what's that?

Owen sees what she's pointing to on the DRONE MONITOR: A HULKING SILHOUETTE, MOVING ACROSS THE ICE TOWARD THEM.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Shit. Unidentified object approaching, half a click North-Northeast!

SGT. LEVERIGHT  
Is that a person or an animal?

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Let's set up the welcoming party.

**INT. CEILING CRAWLSPACE - DOGWHISTLE STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

DARKNESS. A PANEL LIFTS revealing David's helmeted head. He's standing on a ladder, peering into the crawlspace.

WHITTAKER (O.S.)  
See anything?

DAVID'S POV: his flashlight illuminates the space, revealing what looks like a hoarder's den, piled high with canned food, bottled water, lanterns, books, blankets and winter gear.

DAVID ANIK

I guess we know where the kitchen  
supplies wound up.

Suddenly, there's MOVEMENT -- the pile of blankets sprouts  
PALE, THIN ARMS AND LEGS, and a tangle of black HAIR and  
glistening EYES emerge into the light...

MEI

David?

MEI LIU (22), emaciated, eyes wide with fear, stares out at  
David, pointing a HIGH-CALIBER RIFLE at him.

DAVID ANIK

That's right, Mei. I'm here to  
help. Please put the gun down.

But she clutches the rifle, quivering with terror.

MEI

We have to get out of here. They're  
coming.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - BASE CAMP - DUSK**

In the fading light, Whit runs from Dogwhistle Station to the team's Decontamination Shed.

**INT./EXT. DECONTAMINATION SHED - CONTINUOUS**

The clean chamber consists of a bunk, a toilet, lockers and not much else. Inside, Gail is OUT OF HER SUIT, eating an M.R.E. when Whit pounds on the plexiglass door.

WHITTAKER

Gail! We found the missing researcher. We need you inside.

**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

David places the rifle inside a STEEL LOCKER stenciled with the words "BEAR ARMS." David takes a seat across from Mei, who is wrapped in blankets and devouring a hot meal.

DAVID ANIK

I promise we're safe here.

MEI

We won't be when they come back.

DAVID ANIK

After who comes back?

MEI

The *team*. They went crazy repeating themselves, repeating whole days. When I tried to call for help, Renault busted up the radio. Told me they had unfinished business and if I tried to interfere again...

DAVID ANIK

Mei. They're all dead.

MEI

All of them? Are you sure?

DAVID ANIK

I found them myself. I'm sorry, but you're safe.

MEI

And did you find... the other me?

DAVID ANIK

The other you? You're not making sense.

Mei knows how it sounds, struggles to find the right words. But then it lands on her: David is in full hazmat gear.

MEI

David, why do you need that suit?

DAVID ANIK

It's just a precaution.

MEI

Precaution against what?

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DRILL SITE 22 - SAME - DUSK**

Owen's team is fanned out in defensive positions, weapons at the ready, as the BULKY FIGURE approaches from the North.

LT. MATTHEWS

(off Drone monitor)

Eighty meters!

**ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE**

The Figure is humanoid -- silhouetted in the dying sunlight as it stalks toward the team. It's thicker than any person should be, hunched over as if carrying a great weight.

**AT THE DRILL SITE**

Owen calls down to Silver, who's still hurrying to remove the ICE CORE from the drill rig --

CPT. OWEN BELL

Silver! Fall back to a safe position.

PVT. SILVER

You heard what the doctor said. We need this thing.

As he continues to work, the Figure crests the ridge...

**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Whit and Gail enter (both in hazmat suits) to find David holding down Mei, who's slapping at him, trying to get loose.

MEI

Let me go, David. Tell me why you're afraid of me!

DAVID ANIK

(to Whit and Gail)  
Help me. She's panicking.

Whit moves to help David hold Mei down, while Gail opens her kit, producing a SYRINGE AND NEEDLE.

GAIL

Hold her there, I can sedate her.

MEI

Don't touch me! Don't come near me with that!

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DRILL SITE 22 - SAME**

Owen aims his rifle at the approaching Figure.

CPT. OWEN BELL

(subtitled Russian)  
*Stop where you are!*

The Figure keeps coming. POP-POP-POP! Ice flies in front of the Figure from Owen's WARNING SHOTS. A hundred meters away, Owen aims his rifle a little higher:

CPT. OWEN BELL (CONT'D)

*One more move and I'll put a bullet in your fucking head!*

The Figure stops in its tracks -- doubles over -- lets out an inhuman WAIL.

Weapons hot, Owen and his team approach... but as they get closer, they notice a FLICKERING LIGHT around the Figure's midsection. The Figure pulls free a small DEVICE.

Matthews checks the drone monitor, sees a dozen FLICKERING LIGHTS TURN ON UNDER THE ICE BENEATH THEIR FEET.

LT. MATTHEWS

Detonator! Detonator! The site is rigged!



CPT. OWEN BELL  
Clear the area!

Owen OPENS FIRE, but the Figure hurls itself behind a low ice ridge, dodging the barrage of bullets. Audrey grabs Naya and they SPRINT AWAY from the site.

AUDREY  
Come on, move!

Matthews tosses down his drone controls -- sprints towards Silver, who's still operating the drill rig --

KA-BOOM! The whole drill site rises violently in a MASSIVE EXPLOSION!

**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

AT THE SOFA, David and Gail have the struggling Mei pinned. She's flailing as Gail tries to get the syringe into her arm.

The BOOM OF THE EXPLOSION echoes through the Station like a thunderclap. Everyone's silent for a moment, stunned...

DAVID ANIK  
What was that?

WHITTAKER  
Jesus, they're miles away.

Even Mei has stopped to listen. Gail seizes the opportunity to stab her with the syringe -- Mei screams and fights -- Gail presses the plunger --

WHITTAKER (INTO RADIO) (CONT'D)  
Captain Bell! Naya! Anybody,  
please... Naya, are you out there?

Nothing but static. Panicked tears fill Whit's eyes.

Mei's eyelids are getting heavy, her movement slowing. David eases his grip on her, looks to Whit.

NAYA (OVER RADIO)  
*Whit?*

WHITTAKER (INTO RADIO)  
Naya! Are you --

NAYA (OVER RADIO)  
*We're returning to the Station...  
we have casualties.*

Whit, David and Gail look at one another as Mei drifts into unconsciousness. Things have gone from bad to worse...

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - BASE CAMP - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Whit stands outside the station entrance -- illuminated by FLOODLIGHTS -- as Naya, Audrey, and Rich walk up.

WHITTAKER

Thank God you're okay.

Whit reaches out and squeezes Naya's gloved hand.

NAYA

I got lucky.

Owen and his team arrive on their sleds towing The Figure. It's human, wearing a bulky DIVING SUIT and wet suit MASK.

WHITTAKER

Where are the bodies?

CPT. OWEN BELL

Their names were Silver and Matthews.

Owen and Leveright glare at Whit and then head inside.

NAYA

Whit, site twenty-two was destroyed.

WHITTAKER

We need to radio for help.

AUDREY

No. I need our prisoner to tell us if there are more Russians in the area before I break radio silence.

Rich kneels next to the prisoner and rips off the mask to reveal AN UNCONSCIOUS WOMAN (we'll learn her name is KATYA).

**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Whit, David, Gail, Naya, Audrey, and Rich are gathered.

GAIL

Mei is experiencing bouts of vertigo, disoriented and scared out of her mind.

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'D)

Not surprising in a malnourished, traumatized patient who's been alone for weeks.

NAYA

Any of those symptoms could also be an expression of the disease. We know she was thinking erratically based on her log book.

DAVID ANIK

Yeah, she asked me if I had found "the other her" out on the ice.

RICH

What the hell does that mean?

WHITTAKER

It means she's hallucinating.

GAIL

Once sensory input is disconnected from objective reality a person would exhibit schizophrenic-like behavior.

AUDREY

Are you saying we have a contagious form of insanity on our hands?

GAIL

That is the, *dumb*, way to phrase it, but yes. I am.

DAVID ANIK

Holy shit.

A moment as Gail's words land on everyone.

AUDREY

Do you know of a naturally occurring disease that could incapacitate someone this way?

NAYA

I know of a few that might explain most of the symptoms. But none can account for the hallucinations.

RICH

(to Audrey)

You think the girl's working with the Russians?

AUDREY

It explains the destroyed comms and ice cores at least as well as the story she told him.

DAVID ANIK

You're out of your mind. I know Mei.

RICH

Nobody knows anyone. Not that well. If she was working with them, she'd know exactly how to act.

GAIL

If she's faking, she fooled me. Nobody fools me.

NAYA

And even if she was working with them, she could still be infected.

WHITTAKER

Which means we could have our first live subject. So I'm going to run some tests and you're not going to interfere.

Whit steps forward to Audrey, challenging her. Naya backs him up. A tense moment as Audrey decides her next move.

AUDREY

Okay. You run whatever tests you deem necessary. But we have someone we know was working with the Russians. And after I interrogate her, I'll be the one deciding who we can trust.

**INT. MEI'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Whit kneels by the UNCONSCIOUS Mei, swabs her arms to prep for drawing blood. He glances uneasily back at Leveright, her firearm at the ready, as Mei's blood fills the vial.

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Naya has retrieved some gear from her quarters and is returning to the Lab when PRIVATE TORRES (20) stands guard outside a PADLOCKED DOOR, blocks her way.

PVT. TORRES  
 Sorry, ma'am. You'll have to take  
 the long way around.

**INT. LAB / HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

WHIRRR. Four vials of Mei's blood spin in a centrifuge. Whit stops the spinning, preps the first sample, sets it under a MICROSCOPE.

He examines the sample -- tries a second slide -- lets out a sigh of frustration when --

BOY (O.S.)  
 Dad?

Whit freezes. He looks up from the microscope -- slowly turns around -- stares dead ahead -- his body shakes.

REVERSE TO REVEAL: A THREE-YEAR-OLD BOY, shirtless, short curly hair, standing in the doorway not ten feet from Whit -- his big dark eyes staring right back at him.

Whit instinctively GRABS THE EDGE OF THE DESK, making sure he's awake. He closes his eyes, opens them again -- the Boy is still there.

The Boy turns down the hallway and rounds a corner. Whit gets up to follow, unsteady -- turns the corner and nearly runs into:

NAYA  
 Hey, I was just coming to check on  
 your progress.

Whit looks past Naya down the hall. The Boy is not there. Naya looks behind her, then back at Whit. She sees that he's shaken.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
 Whit, what's wrong?

WHITTAKER  
 I uh... just saw someone out here.  
 But he couldn't have really been  
 here.

NAYA  
 Who did you see?

WHITTAKER  
 Atticus.

The name is a gut punch to Naya. She covers.

NAYA

Okay. You had a hallucination. When did you sleep last? Or eat?

WHITTAKER

It's not that. He was as real to me as you are standing there. Which means --

NAYA

I know what it fucking means!  
(gathering herself)  
Did you break procedure? Even for a moment?

WHITTAKER

Not that I'm aware of.

NAYA

Then I need to check your suit.

**SERIES OF SHOTS - INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN**

- Naya drags a large EQUIPMENT CASE into the kitchen.
- Whit and Naya line the empty case with garbage bags.
- They use the dishwashing hose to FILL THE CASE WITH WATER.
- Naya helps Whit into the makeshift water tub. She presses him down so he's fully submerged.
- They wait for the surface of the water to calm down. Whit looks up through the water at Naya.

WHITTAKER

See anything?

A beat as Naya examines the water. It's completely still.

**INT. LAB - DOGWHISTLE STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Naya and Whit, his pressure suit dripping, enter the lab.

NAYA

The suit's completely sealed.  
There's no way anything could have gotten through.

WHITTAKER

Naya. If I'm infected despite my suit, it means we're all in danger. We can't wait, we need to figure out what's going on with me now.

NAYA

There's no way you're taking off that suit. Run the tests on Mei.

WHITTAKER

I did. Her bloodwork was negative, just like at the morgue. But we know this thing carves up specific areas of the brain. Mei's in no state of mind to consent to the procedure, but I am.

NAYA

We are not opening up your skull for a biopsy while we're sitting on a sheet of arctic sea ice.

WHITTAKER

Leveright's a combat medic, she's worked in worse conditions. We brought equipment for an autopsy, it'll work for this. I know the risks. But I can't do this without you.

OFF Naya with a terrible decision to make...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. WHIT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATE NIGHT**

Whit lies on the bed, staring at the glow-in-the-dark stars on the ceiling, when -- KNOCK KNOCK.

Naya opens the door and walks in. He's in his regular clothes; she's in her pressure suit. They're only a few feet from each other, but it might as well be the Grand Canyon.

NAYA

It won't be long now. Gail said everything should go off without a hitch.

WHITTAKER

I don't know Gail that well, but well enough to know she would never say the word "hitch."

She closes the door and sits at the foot of the bed.

NAYA

How could you put us in this position? You know what it did to me last time.

WHITTAKER

I know what it did to us. But we came up here to save lives, same as last time. You need to put that on me, fine.

A tense beat as that lands on her.

NAYA

Whit, what did you see in the hallway?

WHITTAKER

Exactly what I told you. I saw our son.

NAYA

Our son died at three weeks.

WHITTAKER

All the same it was him. He was older. But I knew it's what he would have looked like. Like how you know something in a dream.



Naya reaches over and takes Whit's hand in hers. He closes his eyes. Bone tired, she also begins to NOD OFF as we hear a HEART MONITOR beeping steadily...

**QUICK FLASHES - VARIOUS**

- A BUNGALOW sits in the middle of the Brazilian rainforest, swarming with MOSQUITOS.

- Whit and a PREGNANT Naya argue M.O.S. inside their ATLANTA APARTMENT. A rare dusting of snow is visible out the window.

- CLOSE ON a BABY in an incubator, its forehead is collapsed, DEFORMED. We hear the heart monitor FLATLINE --

**INT. WHIT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Naya gasps awake. Whit has turned over, deep in sleep. Naya still holds his hand. We might notice Whit is still wearing his WEDDING BAND.

A BUZZ in the air draws Naya's attention. She sees a MOSQUITO circling overhead. The insect lands on her gloved hand. Naya closes her hand, crushing the mosquito.

NAYA

...it's just a dream.

She opens her hand. OFF Naya, staring at her palm...

**INT. SECURE ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATE NIGHT**

Interrogation time. A CAMERA is trained on the captive Russian, KATYA (late 20s) who has been cleaned up and changed into borrowed clothes, hands zip-tied behind her.

Rich and Audrey, dossiers spread out on a table, question Katya in **Russian with English Subtitles.**

RICH

*Ekaterina Ivanovna. Supposedly from Vladivostok, educated in Oxford, and currently serving at the Directorate of Geophysical Innovation.*

AUDREY

*But we know that you really hail from Arkhangelsk, got two doctorates from Saint Petersburg Polytechnic --*

RICH

*And that you work for a weapons program run by Oleg Zubac.*

Katya sizes them up, leans forward in her chair.

KATYA

*I go by Katya.*

RICH

*What's your field of expertise?*

KATYA

*So there are things you don't know. Radiotelegraphy and signal coding.*

Rich betrays a look of surprise -- not what he was expecting.

KATYA (CONT'D)

*I know it's impossible to convince you, but I am a civilian.*

AUDREY

*Maybe you were. But the moment you killed our men with high explosives, you became a soldier.*

Katya breaks eye contact. A pang of guilt?

AUDREY (CONT'D)

*Katya. We have a woman on board with neurodegenerative symptoms resulting from a biological agent developed by your government.*

KATYA

*By my government? This is bullshit! You're not getting a false confession out of me. Oleg showed me what you did.*

RICH

*And what did he show you?*

KATYA

*Satellite photos of the array your government built in the ice.*

AUDREY

*The array? You mean the structure you destroyed.*

KATYA

*Yes. The neuroweapon.*

Audrey looks at Rich. Maybe he'll illuminate what she's talking about. But he's staring intently at Katya.

KATYA (CONT'D)  
*We were developing a  
 countermeasure.*

RICH  
*You and Oleg.*

KATYA  
*Us, and seven other patriots who  
 sacrificed everything to stop --*

Katya stops short, as if she's reliving a terrible moment. Audrey turns to Rich, speaks in English.

AUDREY  
 Seems to me she's a true believer.  
 What do you think?

Audrey notices Rich is pale, sweating.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
 Hey, are you okay?

RICH  
 I'm going to be sick.

He gets up, throws open the door, rushes out into --

**INT. RUSSIAN FACILITY - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

It takes a disorienting moment before Rich realizes he's NO LONGER IN DOGWHISTLE STATION.

This WINDOWLESS HALLWAY is noticeably DAMP, with signage in CYRILLIC RUSSIAN. Rich looks behind. There's no door leading back into the interrogation room. What the hell is going on?

LAB WORKERS brush past, not noticing Rich. He's stunned to see KATYA among them, arguing in subtitled Russian with OLEG.

KATYA  
*Oleg, don't do this. We're close to  
 a breakthrough. I need more time.*

OLEG  
*You saw what happened with Doctor  
 Volkov, our mission is compromised.*

Rich follows them into a --

**INT. RUSSIAN FACILITY - LAB - CONTINUOUS**

A diagram of the FRACTAL PATTERN dominates the room. A lab worker examines an ICE CORE.

KATYA

*If we destroy the array, we won't  
have another chance --*

OLEG

*Enough. I've made my decision.*

Movement in the B.G. breaks Rich's reverie: a SCIENTIST walks up behind a Soldier who guards a STORAGE AREA -- raises a STEEL ROD like a club -- Rich speaks up but no one can hear.

RICH

Look out! Behind you!

THWACK! The Scientist smashes the Soldier's head.

Suddenly there's chaos all around. Rich stands still as the Scientist moves past the dead Soldier -- enters the storage area revealing... EXPLOSIVES!

ANOTHER SCIENTIST sprints toward the scene of violence.

SCIENTIST #2

*Sokolov, what are you doing?! Stop!*

KA-BOOM! The Scientist blows the explosives, vaporizing himself and Scientist #2. There's a rush of FIRE AND SMOKE, then WATER begins pouring in through the blasted walls.

Holy shit, this facility is underwater, and it's starting to flood!

Oleg grabs Katya, they sprint out of the Lab. Rich follows, running as fast as his clumsy pressure suit will allow. The facility GROANS all around them, as they reach --

**INT. RUSSIAN FACILITY - SUBMERSIBLE BAY - CONTINUOUS**

Oleg ushers Katya into a SUBMERSIBLE, a personal submarine with room for only one person. [The DIVING SUIT inside is the same one Katya was wearing when she blew up Site 22.]

OLEG

*Inside! Inside!*

Rich watches as Oleg closes the hatch behind Katya, sealing her inside. She shouts through the porthole.

KATYA

*What are you doing!?*

OLEG

*The sub is already armed. You have to destroy the array.*

KATYA

*I'm not leaving you.*

OLEG

*Your dissent is noted.*

Oleg hits a CONTROL PANEL. Katya is in tears as the sub begins to DESCEND into the waters below...

Just before the porthole dips out of view, Katya catches a glimpse of Rich over Oleg's shoulder. A look of pained recognition crosses her face.

KATYA

*You can't be here...*

CRACK-WHOOSH! The bulkhead bursts -- water floods the Submersible Bay, enveloping Rich and Oleg --

**INT. SECURE ROOM / HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Back with Audrey and Katya, a SCREAM comes from O.S.

AUDREY

*Don't move.*

Audrey gets up and opens the door -- finds Rich on his hands and knees outside the secure room.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

*Are you okay? What happened?*

He looks up, disoriented, VOMIT splattered on the inside of his helmet. He looks through the door, locks eyes with Katya. She has the same look of recognition as moments before.

**INT. MAKESHIFT O.R. - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Whit lies face up on a METAL TABLE WITH WHEELS, as Naya stands nearby.

Gail prepares her instruments for the surgery. Leveright ties medical tubing around Whit's arm. She grabs an INTRAVENOUS HEP-LOCK.

SGT. LEVERIGHT  
You're going to feel this.

She inserts the Hep-Lock into a vein in Whit's arm, tapes it into place, then unties the tubing. Whit looks over at Naya and gives her a "thumbs up."

**INT. OBSERVATION DECK - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Audrey locks the door, turns to Rich.

RICH  
One second I was here. The next...  
I was in the Russian lab. Under the  
sea ice.

AUDREY  
You hallucinated. That fits with  
what we know about the disease.

RICH  
No. I was physically there. I stood  
next to Oleg when he died.

DRIP. DRIP. DRIP. Audrey looks at Rich in disbelief. His suit is soaking wet, dripping water onto the floor...

AUDREY  
When did your suit get soaked?

RICH  
In the Russian lab. It flooded.

AUDREY  
If that's true... what else is this  
thing capable of?

**INT. MAKESHIFT O.R. - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Leveright finishes shaving Whit's head. Gail puts the ANESTHESIA MASK over his face. His eyes flutter close. CLOSE ON Whit he enters R.E.M. sleep...

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

SMOKE spills into the hall from under a door. A LARGE SHADOW ENTERS FRAME and begins to move down the hall...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. MAKESHIFT O.R. - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Naya watches Whit, still unconscious on the wheeled table. Gail REVS the BONESAW; the BLADE SPINS. Satisfied the tool is in working order, she moves to Whit.

GAIL

Let's proceed.

Leveright hands Gail a scalpel, but before she can make an incision...

O.S. A SLED DOG begins BARKING as a FIRE ALARM SOUNDS.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Check outside. I'm not opening his skull in the middle of a fire.

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Naya walks cautiously as both the fire alarm and dog still sound off. She hears a SCRAPING noise coming from further down the hall, sees smoke wafting around the hallway corner.

She's mid-way down the hall when, a dozen feet ahead of her:

A thirteen foot tall humanoid CREATURE rounds the corner -- its shoulders scrape the ceiling -- skin sagging like a pallid human suit -- SMOKE BILLOWS from its gaping jaw and empty eye sockets.

Naya ducks behind an equipment case. Did it see her? The Creature approaches, nearly on top of Naya when -- BARK BARK! -- its attention is drawn by the sled dog outside.

The Creature forces the door open. Naya sees the Creature grab and lift a SLED DOG by its neck.

Naya bolts. As she makes her escape, she hears the SICKENING THUD OF THE DOG BEING THROWN AGAINST THE WALL behind her!

**INT. MAKESHIFT O.R. - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

The door bursts open as Naya enters, frantic.

NAYA

We've gotta move Whit. Now.

**INT. OBSERVATION DECK - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Audrey, Rich and Owen are crowded around a CONTROL PANEL. It's a schematic of the station with GREEN AND RED LIGHTS indicating where the fire alarm is going off.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
There's a third one, in the lab.

AUDREY  
What the hell's going on down there?

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Naya and Leveright wheel Whit, still unconscious on the table, down the hall as Gail runs behind them.

CPT. OWEN BELL (OVER RADIO)  
*Hey, we're reading fire. Anyone have eyes on it?*

NAYA  
Turn that radio off, it'll hear us!

Leveright flips her radio off.

GAIL  
I still don't understand why we're --

One of the walls CRACKS with the force of something hitting it from the other side.

GAIL (CONT'D)  
-- running.

NAYA  
Quick. Through here.

She leads them into --

**INT. REC ROOM/KITCHEN - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Naya and Leveright wheel Whit safely inside; Gail follows. Naya shuts the door behind them, but there's no lock.

NAYA  
Help me with this.

Naya grabs the PINBALL MACHINE. Leveright helps yank it in front of the door just as -- BANG! BANG! The Creature is just on the other side, stopped for now.



GAIL

What is that?

Naya goes for the BEAR RIFLE. She opens the locker and finds a box of .338 ammunition.

Leveright hears a noise coming from the direction of the SERVING WINDOW into the Kitchen. The closed metal ROLL-UP SHUTTER in the window shakes.

NAYA

It's trying to come through the kitchen.

The Creature's long FINGERS are under the roll-up shutter. Leveright grabs the CHAIN PULLEY to keep the shutter closed. As the Creature lifts, the CHAIN SLIPS THROUGH HER HANDS. Gail rushes over to help Leveright keep the shutter closed.

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Owen runs into Private Torres in the hallway.

PVT. TORRES

No sign of fire, sir.

CPT. OWEN BELL

There's a disturbance in the rec room, could be a hostile. You go around back, I'm taking the front.

**INT. REC ROOM/KITCHEN - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Naya is loading the rifle, her hands shaking, when Leveright and Gail lose their grip of the chain and THE SHUTTER FLIES OPEN. The Creature starts to scramble through.

Owen runs into the Rec Room from the far end. He sees the Creature emerging through the shutter mere feet from Naya.

Owen rushes the Creature, but it SWATS HIM AWAY, sending him across the floor.

Naya chambers and racks the rifle -- squares the Creature in her sights -- FIRES!

A PLUME OF SMOKE bursts out from the Creature, obscuring Naya's view. The SHOT ECHOES and the room returns to eerie silence.

Whit coughs. Gail rushes over to him as he slowly regains consciousness.

As the smoke clears, REVEAL the Creature has vanished. Naya lowers the gun -- sees Mei against the far Kitchen wall, TWENTY FEET BEHIND WHERE THE CREATURE HAD JUST BEEN:

A beat before Mei slumps to the ground, a HOLE THROUGH HER HEAD. She's dead.

Naya reels, collapsing against the locker. Owen gets up holding his injured side, sees Torres enter the kitchen and approach Mei's dead body...

CPT. OWEN BELL  
What the hell was she doing?

Torres kneels by Mei's side, holds up a FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

**INSERT - CAMERA FLASH**

As the light fades it reveals a Rorschach-like SPATTER OF CONGEALING BLOOD on the off-white wall.

**INT. REC ROOM/KITCHEN - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Private Torres PHOTOGRAPHS Mei's dead body like a crime scene. Naya watches, dazed, eyes fixed on the blood and brain matter sprayed against the wall.

Whit approaches. Sits and sees where Naya's looking.

NAYA  
One minute she's a person, the next she's just... that.

WHITTAKER  
You were trying to protect me.

NAYA  
Doesn't matter why I pulled the trigger. She's dead.

Whit waits, knows Naya needs a moment before he presses on.

WHITTAKER  
Gail told me there was -- something -- inside the station. She said it was human, but not human. Smoke coming from its head. Is that true?

Naya looks over to Whit; she knows where this is going.

NAYA  
Yeah. That's what I saw.

WHITTAKER

Then you know this isn't your fault. It's mine.

NAYA

No. It can't be.

WHITTAKER

You've heard me describe my nightmare a thousand times. That was him. The team needs to know about my connection to what just happened.

NAYA

They'll think we're crazy.

WHITTAKER

Probably. But if we're going to figure this out, we'll need to convince them we're not.

**INT. KATYA'S SECURE QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Katya is alone in the quarters that serve as her makeshift prison, seated at the desk of whoever used to live here.

She's pulled the pages from some scientific paper, and is writing on the back of them. She finishes writing a LETTER, signs it and places it in a stack of other letters, when --

CLICK. THUD. She turns. What was that sound? She gets up and crosses to the door. Tries the handle --

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

The door cracks silently open. The PADLOCK lies on the floor. Katya peers out. There's no one guarding her door.

**INT. LAB - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

Audrey, Rich, Gail and Owen debate what to do next. Leveright binds Owen's injury with a brace, his pressure suit making it difficult. David stares into space, devastated.

RICH

I'm saying we need to radically re-frame our thinking. Nothing can explain that thing appearing out of nowhere, busting up this station --

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Not to mention my damned ribs.

RICH  
Right. No hallucination did that.

GAIL  
I once had a patient at McLean who punched through a mirror during a psychotic episode. She later swore her brother broke that mirror. Her brother had been dead for years.

AUDREY  
Do you mean we did all this damage ourselves?

GAIL  
If our minds tricked us into acting out our hallucination, we'd never know it.

Whit and Naya enter, having overheard.

WHITTAKER  
The brain scarring we've identified means at a minimum there's a neurological component.

RICH  
Neurological, physiological, fucking supernatural, doesn't matter! Whatever "it" is we need to find the source and eliminate it.

A beat. Naya and Whit exchange a look -- no way they're going to tell him the Creature came from Whit's nightmare.

NAYA  
You're right, Rich. And doing that will be a lot easier once we take off our pressure suits.

WHITTAKER  
Because we're all compromised.

NAYA  
We need to quarantine ourselves until we know we can find the source and contain it.

A beat they all look at their useless pressure suits.

WHITTAKER

Upside is, you can all get some fresh air. Rich, buddy, I know you could use it.

Rich, dried puke splattered on his faceplate, is not amused.

AUDREY

One problem. There's a rescue plan: if we don't return within ten days, they send an icebreaker ship after us.

NAYA

Then call them off, or our rescuers could wind up just like us.

Audrey grimaces as everyone looks at her expectantly. She meets eyes with David, who looks at her as if to say: *don't let this happen to anyone else.*

AUDREY

I'll make the call.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Everyone jumps at the sound of the FIRE ALARM coming back on.

DAVID ANIK

Is that thing back?

CPT. OWEN BELL

If it is, I'm going to put it down.

He moves out of the Lab with a purpose. Audrey follows --

**INT. HALLWAY / STAIRWELL - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Owen and Audrey stalk swiftly in the direction of the fire alarm. They come to the stairs leading up to OBSERVATION. SMOKE billows out from under the door.

Owen and Audrey ready their weapons -- Owen steels himself -- signals *one, two, three* -- kicks the door open --

**INT. OBSERVATION DECK - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

But the monster isn't inside. Instead, they're greeted by a RAGING FIRE. Owen shields Audrey.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Fire! Get back!

He spots a FIRE EXTINGUISHER -- darts through the heat -- staying against the wall as he pulls the extinguisher free.

He sprays down the fire. Gradually, it dies down. As soon as the flames are subdued, Audrey rushes through the smoke toward her SECURE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

AUDREY

Goddammit! The SCIF, the satphone,  
it's all gone.

(then)

This wasn't an accident.

Owen looks out the window, notices all the exterior lights are powered down. He finds the BREAKER intact, throws a switch. The EXTERIOR STATION LIGHTS come back on.

Owen scans the area around the Station -- sees what he's looking for: a FIGURE sprinting into the night -- he darts from the room in pursuit.

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - BASE CAMP - SAME - NIGHT**

Katya, backlit by the blinding Station lights, curses to herself and picks up her pace.

She reaches the DOG SLED SHELTER. The dogs bark wildly as she corrals a couple of them, gets them into their harnesses.

She looks back, sees Owen running out of the Station toward her. He RIPS OFF HIS PRESSURE SUIT HELMET --

CPT. OWEN BELL

(subtitled Russian)

*Katya, stop there.*

But she's not about to stop. She gets a couple of the dogs attached to a SLED --

KATYA

Hyah! Hyah!

The sled starts to pull away just as Owen gets within striking distance. HE LUNGES FOR KATYA -- BARELY MISSES -- on his way down, Owen GRABS KATYA'S ANKLE -- she tumbles down on top of him --

They both SKID AWAY FROM THE SLED! Katya scrambles toward Owen's rifle -- grabs it -- turns it on Owen -- he grabs the barrel -- BAM! -- the muzzle flares next to his head.

Owen punches Katya with his free hand -- flips the rifle back around on her, as she puts her hands up in the air.

KATYA (CONT'D)  
No shoot! No shoot!

CPT. OWEN BELL  
(winded)  
You stubborn ass. Think you'd have  
learned the first time.

He clocks her with the rifle butt right between the eyes --

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATER - NIGHT**

Audrey and the rest of the team have re-grouped outside the station. Everyone has pulled off their suit helmets. Owen (blood dripping from his ear), steps outside.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
The Russian's secure.

AUDREY  
We can't have any more escape  
attempts.

SGT. LEVERIGHT  
I won't leave her side.

NAYA  
She's not talking about Katya.

Audrey looks Naya squarely in the face.

AUDREY  
No I'm not.  
(to the group)  
There was no sign Katya forced the  
door of her room. So in addition to  
understanding this illness or  
whatever it is and trying to  
contain it, we now have to figure  
out who helped her escape.

A beat as that sinks in to the group. They look around,  
suspicions forming.

GAIL  
If we can't know who to trust, how  
are you proposing to enforce the  
quarantine?

CPT. OWEN BELL  
By making sure the only way out of  
here is on foot.

As if on cue, we hear a WHINE. They all turn to see the two dozen SLED DOGS. Holy shit, are they going to kill the dogs??

CUT TO:

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - BASE CAMP - A LITTLE LATER**

No, of course not. The dogs are safe next to the station. But the DOGSLEDS ARE BURNING. The whole team is gathered around a giant BONFIRE, as FLURRIES OF SNOW BEGIN TO FALL.

Rich sidles up to Audrey, asks quietly:

RICH

So what happens if we haven't  
figured things out by the time that  
rescue ship arrives?

She stares at him, then back at the group.

AUDREY

Then we do what we have to do.

She leaves him with that ominous declaration. The team watches with grim resignation as their only way home goes up in smoke, and the flurries thicken into a SNOWSTORM.

END OF ACT FIVE



ACT SIX**INT. REC ROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - NIGHT**

The WHOLE TEAM is gathered together, finally OUT OF THEIR PRESSURE SUITS. Everyone is agitated and tense.

AUDREY

Someone in this room helped Katya escape. Which means someone in this room isn't who they say they are.

RICH

But we'll find them soon enough.

DAVID ANIK

Who's we?

(steps forward)

Because no offense but I don't know any of you. If there's going to be a group in charge, I'll feel a lot better if there's at least one civilian on it.

NAYA

(to Audrey)

For all we know it could be you.

AUDREY

That's ridiculous.

Audrey seethes, pissed her authority has been challenged.

NAYA

You three are military and intelligence. I'm with David, I want a civilian. Like us.

(to Owen)

This is non-negotiable.

Owen weighs what to do next, looks at Audrey and Rich.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Fine. Gail, looks like you're part of the command team. Everyone good?  
(off Gail's assent)

Good. Now here are the ground rules for our search...

**INT. LEVERIGHT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATER**

Gail, Owen, and Torres search the room. Gail opens the bathroom mirror and finds a PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE.

CPT. OWEN BELL (V.O.)  
 We break up into teams of no fewer  
 than three. One of the groups is  
 going to have our pretender in it.  
 This way they're outnumbered.

Gail shows Owen the BOTTLE. They share a look of concern.

**INT. AUDREY'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Whit, Rich, and Leveright root through Audrey's things.

CPT. OWEN BELL (V.O.)  
 Nobody searches their own quarters.  
 That way no one can hide evidence  
 they're working against us.

Whit takes a calendar off the wall to look behind... but it's  
 just solid wall.

Leveright flips the mattress over but finds nothing. Rich  
 intently reads through Audrey's classified files.

Whit pauses to watch Rich and Leveright tearing through  
 Audrey's personal things. *What a mess...*

**INT. RICH'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Naya and David have overturned Rich's bags onto his bed.

CPT. OWEN BELL (V.O.)  
 All questioning will be public. I  
 don't want any anyone claiming we  
 forced a confession.

Audrey pulls two BOTTLES OF WHISKY from a drawer.

AUDREY  
 What kind of man packs these on an  
 essentials only mission?

NAYA  
 Maybe you don't know Rich as well  
 as you think you do.

AUDREY  
 Or as well as I need to.

DAVID ANIK  
 If he had a problem those bottles  
 wouldn't be Blue Label, they'd be  
 Mad Dog.

**INT. WHIT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Gail, Owen, and Torres search Whit's room. They turn over the bed -- rip posters off the wall -- search the UPPER TOILET TANK -- the room is a mess.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Whit's room is clear. Let's go.

**INT. OWEN'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Audrey goes through Owen's bathroom. David looks in the foot locker as Naya searches a DRESSER.

Something out the window catches Naya's eye: WHIT WALKING AWAY FROM THE STATION, INTO THE SNOWSTORM. Panicked, she looks to Audrey and David. Neither one has seen out the window. *Should she tell them about Whit...?*

Naya takes a drawer from the dresser -- sets it down blocking the view of the window -- starts toward the door.

AUDREY  
Where do you think you're going?

NAYA  
I'm feeling a little off. Need some water.

DAVID ANIK  
Let her go. If she doesn't come back, you'll know it's her.

AUDREY  
Fine. You've got two minutes.

**INT. BATHROOM - DOGWHISTLE STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Gail flushes the toilet and washes her hands. She pauses for a moment to ponder herself in the mirror. It's funny. She doesn't look like someone who's infected.

**INT. HALLWAY - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Gail steps into the hallway and comes face-to-face with Naya who is DRESSED IN SNOW GEAR. A beat as the two stare at each other, unsure what to do.

NAYA  
Before you sound the alarm, take a look outside.

Naya indicates a window. Gail looks out, making sure to keep Naya in full view the entire time.

GAIL  
Someone's out there.

NAYA  
It's Whit.

GAIL  
Does that mean -- ?

NAYA  
No. Look, I can't explain, but Whit believes he had something to do with that -- monster.

GAIL  
So he thinks he's protecting us.

NAYA  
That's right. I need to get him back.

A tense moment as Gail looks Naya dead in the eyes.

GAIL  
Yes. You do.

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - WHITE-OUT SNOWSTORM - NIGHT**

NAYA BURSTS OUTSIDE! She can barely see Whit up ahead. He's right at the edge of the station lights, walking into the darkness.

NAYA  
Whit! Come back! It's Naya!

**INT. DAVID'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - SAME**

Gail is back with Owen and Torres, rummaging through David's belongings, when she sees David watching from the hallway. He shrugs, *it is what it is*, and continues down the hall.

PVT. TORRES  
Let's check the Eskimo's computer, see if it looks right.

GAIL  
Don't call him that.

Owen picks up David's SAT-LINK LAPTOP -- scrolls through David's LOGS -- flips on the GPS TRACKING MAP.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Nothing here, just hood seal  
migrations.

Owen realizes something's amiss. He quickly begins PATTING HIMSELF DOWN, jacket, pants --

GAIL  
What is it?

He shows Gail and Torres the ON-SCREEN MAP where they see: **NINE BLINKING DOTS, CLUSTERED TOGETHER AT** --

PVT. TORRES  
That's Dogwhistle.

Owen pulls off his BOOT -- peels back the insole -- reveals **a GPS TRACKER.**

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Holy shit, David's been tracking  
our every move. Torres, go get --

But Owen stops moving, doesn't finish his sentence. Owen, Gail and Torres are all frozen in place.

**INT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - SAME**

And they're not the only ones. The rest of the team members have also FROZEN in the middle of what they were doing last.

All except for one. A FIGURE traverses the Hallway, past frozen team members. REVEAL: **DAVID ANIK!**

**INT. DAVID'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

David enters his quarters. He steps past Owen, Gail, and Torres, who are stock still, unaware of his presence. He TAKES THE SAT-LINK LAPTOP out of Owen's hand.

**EXT. WHITE-OUT SNOWSTORM - NIGHT**

Naya's a few paces behind Whit. She's lighting her way with a FLARE, but it's dying.

NAYA  
Whittaker, goddammit, stop!

She lunges the last few yards between them -- reaches out -- but as Whit stops and begins to turn back toward her -- and VANISHES in a flurry of snow. An illusion.

NAYA (CONT'D)

What? No, no no no no!

Her flare sputters out, descending her into DARKNESS. She's completely lost and alone. Naya picks a direction -- starts trudging that way -- fights through blinding snow -- increasingly panicked...

Until in the distance, she sees a LIGHT! *Thank God.* She surges in that direction.

**INT. LEVERIGHT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - LATER**

Gail, Owen, and Torres search the room. Gail opens the bathroom mirror and finds a PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE.

Gail shows Owen the BOTTLE. They share a look of concern just as they did before. They're repeating their earlier actions.

**INT. AUDREY'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Rich, and Leveright root through Audrey's things.

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL: Whit taking a calendar off the wall! He's still in the station, not outside in the snowstorm.

Leveright flips the bed mattress and KNOCKS OVER A LAMP.

Rich startles as he's looking through Audrey's files.

**INT. RICH'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

David goes through Rich's bags, which he has overturned on the bed.

Audrey pulls two BOTTLES OF WHISKY from a drawer.

AUDREY

What kind of man packs these on an essentials only mission?

Audrey looks to the empty space where Naya had been standing the last time they searched this room. She pauses to "listen to Naya" before speaking again.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Or as well as I need to.

This time, David takes the bottle from Audrey, has a swig.

DAVID ANIK

I think we could all use a drink.  
Don't you?

**INT. WHIT'S QUARTERS - DOGWHISTLE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

Like before, Owen, Gail, and Torres search Whit's quarters. They turn over the bed -- rip posters off the wall --

Only this time, as Owen opens the upper tank of the toilet, his eyes light up. He pulls out a sealed plastic baggie containing the SAT-LINK LAPTOP.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Torres, Gail! I've got something.

**INT. HALLWAY / ENTRANCE - DOGWHISTLE STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

Rich, Leveright and Whit are moving to a new search location when Owen, Audrey and Torres intercept them. David and Gail come up the rear, knowing things are about to get heated.

CPT. OWEN BELL

Rich, Leveright. Step away from  
Doctor Martin.  
(to Torres)  
Arrest him.

WHITTAKER

Hold on, what are you doing?

Whit struggles as Torres ZIP-TIES his hands. Audrey holds up the laptop for Whit to see.

AUDREY

We found this in your quarters.

WHITTAKER

I don't know what that is.

AUDREY

(showing it to the others)  
Whit and Naya have been tracking  
us, like animals. See those dots?  
That's the eight of us, plus the  
Russian.

SGT. LEVERIGHT

But there are nine of us.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Dr. Nnamda has left the station.

WHITTAKER  
What do you mean she's left the station!?

Audrey ignores Whit as Torres and Leverright start to drag him away.

AUDREY  
We have to assume she's got some sort of rendezvous planned.

CPT. OWEN BELL  
I can't risk my two remaining soldiers going after her.

RICH  
Best we can hope is she freezes to death before they make contact.

WHITTAKER  
You sons of bitches, she's not meeting anyone! David! Gail! Naya wouldn't go out there without a reason, one of you must have seen her.

He looks at them, desperate, pleading. David shakes his head, sorry. Whit turns to Gail, his last hope...

GAIL  
I am sorry. I truly wish that I had seen her.

...but Gail has **no memory of her cross with Naya!**

CPT. OWEN BELL  
Lock him up. He tries to run, shoot him.

Just then, there's a thunderous BOOM -- the entry door FLIES OFF ITS HINGES in a swirl of smoke. A half-dozen LASER SIGHTS cut through the smoke as several ARMED MEN AND WOMEN swarm inside, surrounding our team.

An imposing SILHOUETTED MAN stands in the doorway.

SILHOUTTED MAN  
(Russian accent)  
Who's in charge here?



Audrey, Owen, Rich, Gail and David exchange looks. Finally Audrey steps forward, hands up.

AUDREY

I am.

The Silhouetted Man steps into the light, REVEALING --

RICH

Oleg Zubac.

Rich can't help stepping toward OLEG, who's very much alive.

RICH (CONT'D)

I saw your vessel go down. You should be on the bottom of the ocean.

OLEG

And yet, here we all are.  
(then, in Russian)  
*Lock them all up.*

Oleg's soldiers grab the members of the team and start dragging them away. Except for Audrey, who Oleg pulls out of the line.

OLEG (CONT'D)

Not you. You're going to show me where my Katya is. And I hope for your sake she hasn't been harmed.

**EXT. DOGWHISTLE STATION - ARCTIC OCEAN - NIGHT**

As one of the Russian soldiers SLAMS AND LOCKS the exterior door, we PULL BACK from Dogwhistle Station --

**EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DRILL SITE 22 - CONTINUOUS**

Through the snow storm, we arrive at Site 22 -- where the ice is encroaching over the huge HOLE from Katya's explosion -- we DIVE INTO THE HOLE --

**EXT. THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN - CONTINUOUS**

AS WE PUSH DOWN INTO THE BLACK WATER, deeper and deeper -- REVEAL, sitting on the Continental shelf, the Russians' UNDERSEA RESEARCH VESSEL -- a crumpled mass of steel at the bottom of the sea. It really was destroyed.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. WHITE-OUT SNOWSTORM - NIGHT**

Naya pushes through the storm TOWARD THE LIGHT. Her breath is ragged, every step is agony. She skids to her knees.

She gets back to her feet -- almost there -- before finally collapsing into the light.

But when Naya looks up, she's NOT AT THE STATION. She's on the STOOP OF A BRICK APARTMENT BUILDING. Flickering light coming from the front window. An obvious trap.

She looks back into the storm. It's death to go that way.

BOY (O.S.)

Mama?

Naya's breath catches in her throat. She turns.

The door is open, revealing Whit and Naya's APARTMENT as seen in their flashback: FIREPLACE roaring, a dusting of snow against the Atlanta skyline through the bay window opposite.

Standing in the doorway is THE BOY. Her son. Alive and well. The Boy steps down to Naya. She touches his face, his head of curly hair.

NAYA

Baby. My God, you're beautiful.

BOY

You're cold, mama. You should come inside.

She's crying, knows she shouldn't go in. Looks into his big brown eyes, full of love. The beautiful *what could have been* of Naya's life.

And she takes his hand... Follows him inside...

We PULL BACK as the impossible apartment and its beckoning light recede into the storm.

END OF PILOT