

Final Draft 7 Demo

FROSTBITE

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A short winter horror.

Draft 6
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Final Draft 7 Demo

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EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - DAY

Silent trees sway in the cold wind. There is no life here. A few SMALL SHAPES hike through the snow. One carries a snowboard.

Super: Day 3

The shapes are young, exhausted men. One of them, ETHAN (24) tinkers with a small device.

Ethan stops walking, mesmerized by the device.

ETHAN
It's working again--

JARED (21) and ETHAN (31) snap their attention to the device.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Get the map!

Jared yanks the folded map from his coat pocket. Michael stands nearby, extremely low on energy.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Four five point three eight north.

Jared runs his finger along the map.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Okay, hurry it's dying again--
One twenty one point seven two west.

His finger slides across the map and stops at an exact point.

JARED
Here. Is this it?

He compares the GPS to the map. The GPS image fades away as the batteries die. The others notice, but don't say anything. Jared's eyes glaze in desperation.

ETHAN
(pointing at map)
Here we are. Where's the highway?

Michael unfolds a portion of the map. Then another and another. The map is ten times larger. Michael finds a point on the extreme opposite edge of the map. It's about 25 miles away.

MICHAEL
Here.

Jared's heart sinks. Ethan's head sinks. In this wilderness men are puny. *

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - EVENING

SUPER: Day 4

The men drag their feet through the snow. It's knee-high and below freezing. They forge through the remaining daylight.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - LATER

The men hike on. Snow has caked onto their hoods and coats.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The men huddle behind a felled tree on the edge of the treeline, trying to start a fire.

Ethan twists a stick while Jared holds a nest of straw against it. Michael stares into the distance.

JARED

Let's just use a match.

ETHAN

No. This is working.

JARED

We're wasting our energy.

Jared lights a match before Ethan can stop him. Jared touches it to the straw wad and tiny flames ignite. He blows on them.

ETHAN

Careful--

Jared keeps blowing harder. The flames consume nearby twigs.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

We could've done this without matches. We should be saving them.

JARED

That was the last one.

Ethan stares in disbelief The weight of their fate is crushing. Michael is still languid.

The tiny fire lights only their immediate vicinity. The silent trees offer little protection. A growling shadow dashes past our view.

EXT. TREELINE - DAY

SUPER: Day 5

The three men sit against a log, curled up for warmth. Everything is covered except their eyes. A distant BUZZING catches Michael's attention. His ice-crusted eyes gaze out and notice a red Jeep blazing through the deep snow.

MICHAEL

(small)

Hey--

He elbows Ethan.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey!

They stumble up and run from the treeline towards the Jeep. The deep snow is difficult to move in. They wave their arms and scream, but the Jeep ploughs on.

Breathless and rejected, the men stare into the distance.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - MOMENTS LATER

Michael quietly pulls a granola bar from a side pocket. His frozen fingers eventually tear open the wrapper. Jared hears the CRINKLE and gets in Michael's face. *

JARED

You've gotta be kidding me. *

MICHAEL

Dude I can barely think. You had the same amount as me. *

JARED

And I ran out of food the day before yesterday. Split it. *

MICHAEL

I'm sick, man. Let me have--

Jared shoves Michael hard.

JARED

C'mon. Gimme part of it.

Michael doesn't react. Jared shoves him again and Michael socks him in the face. Michael shoves Jared down to the snow. Blood drips from Jared's nose. *

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - DAY

The men hike through the Jeep's tracks. Their breath rises into the white sky. Michael has fallen behind. His eyes are nearly closed as he marches. Jared's bloody nose has frozen. He drops his snowboard on the trail and doesn't look back.

Ethan freezes in place. His eyes are fixed on the snow in front of him.

ETHAN

Jared. JARED--

Jared catches up and looks down, as stumped as Jared. The tracks end. Two parallel paths just stop. Ethan's tired eyes dart as he processes this. He yells over his shoulder.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Mike!

Michael lifts his head and sees them.

MICHAEL

Get off of that!

ETHAN

What?

Ethan and Jared are standing in the middle of a frozen pond. Michael is standing on the bank. Ethan looks down and sees his shoes sliding on the ice. Bubbles shift under the surface. Jared panics.

JARED

What is this?

ETHAN

I don't know, just-- don't move.

Jared starts shuffling back towards the bank.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Jared-- stop. Just...stay low.

Jared breathes heavily as he rushes back towards Michael.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Slow down.

Jared does not. The THUNDER of cracking ice echoes under the thin surface. Jared looks back to Ethan in panic.

SPLASH! Jared's left foot stabs through the ice. Water spills onto the surface. The razor-sharp edge of the ice slices Jared's ankle open. His scream echoes across the pond.

Ethan, still in the middle of the pond, lays down and starts to crawl towards Jared.

Michael stands on the bank, motionless. He steps away from the pond.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

MIKE--

Mike steps back further.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

MICHAEL TALBOT--

JARED

Mike help me!

Michael backs away into the tree line, eyes glassed-over. *

Jared screams as his blood spills onto the ice.

ETHAN

Mike, you have the map! *

He's gone. Ethan crawls towards Jared, inch by inch.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Sit down. Jared!

Jared sits. He tries freeing his foot, but his loose shoe falls off and sinks into the pond. Ethan approaches and the ice shudders again.

He slams his fist through the ice around Jared's ankle. Jared wails as the ice digs into his skin again. He lifts his bare foot from the water. The gash on his ankle is splayed open and raw.

He crawls back toward the bank, screaming. Ethan follows. The ice THUNDERS again.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - DAY

Ethan and Jared trudge through the snow, following Michael's footprints. Jared's left foot leaves bloody prints.

Their folded map appears on the trail in front of them. Jared picks it up.

JARED

Where **is he**?

*

Ethan has no answer. An ANIMAL CALL sounds in the distance. They freeze in place. Ethan squats down to keep a low profile.

JARED (CONT'D)

We should **move on without him**.

*

Another CALL sounds. Ethan can't see into the wooded areas around them.

JARED (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Ethan-- **what** was that Jeep?

*

ETHAN

We're out of our minds.

They sneak up the trail, following Michael's tracks towards the sound of the animal.

EXT. WOODED HILL - NIGHT

Their flashlights illuminate the snow. Sound is muffled here.

Ethan's beam catches a tiny stream of red on the snow beside them. His light follows the stream uphill until landing on a mutilated corpse.

They hustle to the corpse and hover over it. It appears to be a **man**, half-eaten and turned inside-out. Jared dry heaves. Michael's tracks end here, but smaller, cat-like prints surround the corpse and head off into the woods.

*

A NEARBY ANIMAL CALL startles them. They drop down and Ethan smothers their lights in the snow.

*

JARED

I can't run any more.

ETHAN

We're safe. None of this is real.

*

A SHARP GROWL comes from the trees **nearby**.

*

JARED

(nearly sobbing)

Ethan--

ETHAN
 (whispering)
 It isn't real.

They see a furry shape scramble between trees. Jared bolts up *
 and sprints down the hill.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 JARED!

Ethan runs after him. They sprint through the snow, lights
 flailing. The creature snarls from behind the tree line.

They stumble into an open meadow and Jared trips. He slams *
 into the deep snow near a felled tree. Ethan catches up and
 dives beside him. The tree is covering a small cavity in the
 snow. Ethan slides into the gap and drags Jared inside.

INT. SNOW CAVE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Silence, except for desperate breathing. They huddle in the
 small cavity. Moonlight spills in through the gap.

ETHAN
 Shhhh...

They quiet their breathing. Ethan listens to the snow
 outside. LIGHT CRUNCHING STEPS approach. They hold their
 breath. Neither man can blink. A LOW GROWL melts the snow
 just outside the gap.

Four strong paws--like a large cat, with shaggy grey fur--
 flash across the gap. The CRUNCHING fades into the distance.
 They WHISPER.

JARED
 It smells my blood on the snow. *

ETHAN
 It's already moved on. *

JARED
 (hysterical, consigned)
 My led is dead. I'm going to die
 right here.

ETHAN
 We aren't healthy, Jared. 4 days
 without food? None of this is real--

JARED
 (re: his foot, serious)
 That is real,
 (MORE)

JARED (CONT'D)
(pointing up to the
surface)

And that is real--

A furry beast head breaks through the snow ceiling and swallows Jared's head. It yanks him up out of the cavity. Ethan slams back against the frozen wall. Jared's scream is quickly muffled by the ripping of his flesh.

Ethan peeks out from the demolished cavity. A bloody trail leads off to the treeline. The trees obscure of his view of the large, cat-like beast. He slips down into the cavity. He eyes the gap, then eyes it again.

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - LATER

Ethan **stumbles** quickly through the snow. His energy is fading. *

SUPER: DAY 8

Ethan's eyes are saggy and crusted with ice. His shallow breath hardly supplies enough oxygen to stay conscious.

His next step **SQEAKS**. Ethan's eyes settle on the ground in front of him. He's standing **on carpet, in a public library**. *

In one instant the snow **surrounds him once again**. A vicious **SNARL** startles him. The beast is only a few yards behind. *

Ethan falls face-down in the snow. We see the beast for the first time, though blurry: it's a large wolf, with ape-like features. Its teeth are horrifying.

Ethan is dragged backwards. He can't fight back. He rolls onto his backside. The beast sinks his teeth into Ethan's neck, killing him with quiet precision. Ethan's breath stops and his eyes glaze. The breath of the beast is the only noise in this **wilderness**. *

The beast releases it's grip and stands over Ethan. We see Michael standing over Ethan's dead body, with blood all around his **mouth**. *

CUT TO BLACK *