

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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Based on the graphic novel by Niles & Templesmith

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. ALASKAN COAST - DUSK - PRE-TITLES

1

TITLE: TWO DAYS AGO. Snowstorm. A single man in a rowboat -- the STRANGER -- forges through the icy waters toward the coast. It's hard to say how old he is -- 20s, 40s? -- because he's so filthy and red-eyed and yet so fiercely driven.

In shadows behind him stands the eerie, forbidding SHIP which brought him this far. Hitting the edge of the ice, the Stranger clambers out of his boat and trudges inland, smiling thinly as he sees the boat drift away, no use to him anymore --

TITLES ROLL as we follow the Stranger through the wide, eerie twilight of the Alaskan wilderness -- blasted by the wind yet persevering, too yearning and wild-eyed to slow down --

As he crests a small ridge of ice, we see a clutch of lights shimmering in the distance: BARROW, ALASKA. An Arctic outpost of a town, an oil and mining outpost ringed with derricks and tundra. The Stranger grins as he sees Barrow twinkling through the snowstorm, and presses onward AS TITLES END --

2 EXT. SLOPE - SUNDOWN

2

TITLE: TONIGHT. A MAN stands, back to the setting sun, his face cloaked in shadows -- until he turns thoughtfully, the light gradually revealing a weathered and soulful gaze. He is SHERIFF EBEN OLESON, early 30s -- *

EBEN

Strange.

He faces BILLY KITKA, earnest, 40s, wearing a deputy's badge and shining a flashlight into a snowbank west of Barrow -- *

BILLY

Ain't it? Who'd do a thing like this? *

THEIR POV: a smoldering, eerie hole in the snow -- filled with BURNED CELL AND SATELLITE PHONES --

Eben kneels down to examine the firepit, baffled --

BILLY (cont'd)

Someone got a little upset about roaming charges? *

EBEN

Stealing satellite phones'd make sense, you could hock them, maybe run up charges on someone's account. But burning them?

BILLY
Kids? Pulling some prank?

EBEN
There'd be a message. "Fuck you" to
their parents or the world or whoever.

Eben walks up toward the summit, thoughtfully --

EBEN (cont'd)
Best place to solve this is the Diner,
Billy. Get people talking, they'll
gossip and figure it out for us.

Billy watches as Eben keeps hiking toward the crest --

3 EXT. SUMMIT - SUNDOWN 3

The last golden arc of the sun gleams, silhouetting Eben, as
Billy comes to join him.

BILLY
I remember I brought Peggy here on our
first date.

EBEN
We all did. Not Peggy, I mean, just --

BILLY
(light chuckle)
I gotcha. C'mon, let's do the sign -- *
(studying his friend)
You okay?

Eben stares out at the sun quietly, wistfully --

EBEN
Yeah, I only --
(a beat)
Last sunset for a month, some years
it's easier to take, y'know?

Eben turns, not ready to say more, and Billy knows better than
to ask. Shoving his feelings down deep, Eben hikes back
toward the 4x4 waiting at the bottom of the slope --

3A OMITTED 3A

4 EXT. BARROW CITY LIMITS - DUSK 4

The sun's down, but light filters through approaching night.
The 4x4 comes to a stop beside a bright, good-natured sign
from a Tourism Bureau with a sense of humor:

"WELCOME TO BARROW, ALASKA -- TOP OF THE WORLD! POPULATION 563 -- WARNING! DANGER! POLAR BEARS!"

Billy jumps from the 4x4 to the "WELCOME TO BARROW" sign, pulling out some metal tags. Eben calls from the car --

EBEN

Nobody's gonna see that sign for the next thirty days --

BILLY

It's a tradition!

Billy hangs the tags "152" over the "563," changing the population for the winter. OVER THIS, THE SOUND OF DOGS BARKING FIERCELY --

5 EXT. RIIS HOME - DUSK

5 *

Elongating shadows from the fleeting amber daylight. The residential side of Barrow. Homes are built on stilts to avoid the stresses of ice and critters in their foundations. All the homes have crawlspaces underneath, of varying sizes.

FOUR HUSKIES ARE BARKING from behind the fence of the RIIS residence -- sled dogs deeply unhappy about something --

*

A SHADOW passes across the screen -- the dogs follow the shadow angrily -- until suddenly there is a GLEAMING FLASH AND HISS OF A BLADE -- the SICKENING SLICE OF A KNIFE INTO FLESH, and the barks are replaced by horrifying WHINES OF PAIN.

5A EXT. BARROW CITY LIMITS/EBEN'S 4X4 - DUSK

5A

At the edge of town, Eben and Billy pull over beside a HUGE SNOWPLOW swerved crookedly onto the shoulder. The back is covered with a tarp; a stream of oil drips from the truckbed. Working under the open hood is BEAU BROWER, late 50s, thick-bearded, an ox of a man with the social skills to match.

EBEN

Little problem?

BEAU

(not a glance up)

Nothin' I can't handle my own fuckin' self.

Eben gets out of his 4x4, circles the vehicle, pulls a leaking GAS CAN from under the tarp.

EBEN

This for generators?

BEAU
Mostly.

EBEN
I can't have it leaking all over the roads, Beau. I'll have to cite you for that.

He pulls out a citation book, scribbles away as Beau rants --

BEAU
You don't HAVETA cite me. You don't HAVETA do anything. That's why we live up here, innit? So we gotta little freedom? Why don't you run Billy on home so he can cuddle with that cute wifey of his? One of us oughta get laid tonight, at least --

Eben rips a ticket blithely, tucks it in Beau's parka --

EBEN
Happy motoring.

BEAU
I'll add this to my collection.

Eben climbs back in the 4x4 and starts the engine --

BILLY
Beau's not so bad. Why do you bother writing him up?

EBEN
He lives all by himself in that cabin on the south ridge, y'know? A little citation now and then reminds Beau he's part of this town.

BILLY
He's right, though --

EBEN
About what?

BILLY
You should drop me at home. The wife always likes the first night of the Dark --

Eben gently smirks as the WALKIE-TALKIE BLARES with the VOICE of his elderly dispatcher, HELEN --

HELEN (O.S.)
Eben, come in, Eben --

EBEN
Roger, Helen --

*

HELEN
You better get over to John Riis's --
something bad's happened to his dogs --

*

Eben glances at Billy, puzzled and concerned: what the hell?

6 EXT. STREETS - DUSK

6

TOM MELANSON, teens, sturdy, kisses his GIRLFRIEND goodbye --

TOM
See you in the light, baby -- I'll be
good while you're gone, I promise --

TRUCK PAST Tom and his girlfriend through the town's main drag, still warm in the ebbing light of magic hour. Simple white lights, all the town can afford, spark to life, giving Barrow a naive romance. TOWNSFOLK mill about, celebrating like it's New Year's Eve. HONKING horns, hugging and kissing. DOUG HERTZ, late 30s, brawny and well fed, kisses HIS WIFE --

DOUG
-- 'sokay, sweetie, I know you can't
take a month with no sun -- I promise
I won't live on Oreos and Snapple --

KIRSTEN TOOMEY, lean, 20, hands suitcases to HER FATHER PETER, 40s, as he loads up his car for the airport --

PETER
-- wish you'd come with me, Kirsten.
I hate this place in December.
Nothing here but twenty-eight miles of
road, and all of them dead-end.

KIRSTEN
(hugs him goodbye)
I'm gonna get all caught up, Dad, the
taxes, January's orders, don't worry!
Have fun in Seattle!

*

*

6A EXT. KELSO HOUSE - DUSK

6A

CHARLIE KELSO, 40s, HAMMERS the last planks to board up his HOUSE, a successful oil worker's home with an ornamental row of glass bricks in the facade. An impatient MRS. KELSO AND THEIR TWO SONS load luggage into their Range Rover.

MRS. KELSO
 Charlie, do you want to make it to
 Maui or not?

Her voice is such that Charlie's not altogether sure about
 Maui, but he finishes hammering nonetheless --

6B EXT. GENERAL STORE - DUSK 6B

STELLA OLESON -- 20s, hardy, attractive, in the jacket of the *
 Alaska State Fire Marshal's office -- works under deadline to *
 inspect foam firefighting tanks housed outside the general *
 store. Walking by with a trashbin is store proprietor ADAM *
 COLLETTA, 30s, genial and sturdy --

ADAM *
 Kinda put this off till the last *
 minute, didja? *

STELLA *
 A lot of small towns in this state -- *
 my boss wants all their gear inspected *
 and certified by the 31st. *

ADAM *
 And I notice you saved Barrow for last *
 -- sure you don't wanna stay? Jeannie *
 and I were kinda hoping you and Eben --

Stella shakes her head patiently: it's not happening. She *
 checks forms on her clipboard, closes it, heads for her 4x4 -- *

STELLA *
 Thanks a ton. Gotta make the plane --

She starts up her engine as Adam sighs -- shame to see a woman
 like this alone --

6C EXT./INT. BARROW CITY LIMITS/STELLA'S 4X4 - DUSK 6C *

Stella's driving, hellbent for the airport. Coming from the *
 left at a desolate intersection is a large DITCH DRILLER -- an *
 enormous RUMBLING truck with treads instead of tires, and a *
 maneuverable ROARING CHAINSAW mounted on its nose. The ditch *
 driller SHOULD stop at a STOP SIGN -- *

But to Stella's shock, the ditch driller DOESN'T stop, *
imbedding its chainsaw in one of Stella's FRONT TIRES and *
 fishtailing Stella's 4x4 to a full stop -- *

Stella emerges from her 4x4, livid --

STELLA

Goddamn it, Malekai! Don't you know
what a stop sign means?

*
*

Climbing out of the cab is MALEKAI HAMM, 20, abashed --

*

MALEKAI

I'm sorry, Stella, the brakes jammed --

Mute with anger, Stella inspects both her own useless vehicle
and the ditch driller --

*
*

MALEKAI (cont'd)

Eben wanted this back from the airport
before the storm hits, I was just
trying to --

*
*

Stella doesn't have time for Malekai's sputtering guilt; she
pops the trunk on her 4x4 and pulls out her carryon bag,
looking at the snowy, isolated expanse around them --

*

STELLA

Who's gonna run me to the airport?

*

ADAM

Wouldn't Eben -- ?

*

Stella sighs deeply; of course Eben would, but --

*

STELLA

I just popped into town for work, I
didn't want things to get messy --

*
*
*

MALEKAI

My mom could bring the towtruck -- but
y'know she doesn't move so fast --

*
*
*

STELLA

Thanks, Malekai --

*

For nothing. Stella gives up and pulls out her cellphone --

*

7 EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - DUSK

7

*

Eben's dropping Billy off, when his CELLPHONE RINGS. He sees
"STELLA" on the display, CLICKS ON WARILY --

*
*

EBEN

It's me.

Billy can tell who it is from Eben's tone, lingers in the open
door of the 4x4 to eavesdrop, until Eben shoos him off --

*
*

INTERCUT WITH --

7A EXT. BARROW CITY LIMITS - DUSK - RESUME 7A *

Stella, anxious next to a sheepish Malekai, not looking forward to this call -- *

STELLA

Surprise. I need a ride to the airport.

EBEN

Wait -- what? You're in town -- ?
And you didn't want to talk -- ?

STELLA

(not harsh, just honest)
What about? Look, I had Fire Marshal work here, now I'm stuck at Ransom and 355, gotta get back to Anchorage before the airport closes. You want to talk, we can do it on the drive -- *

7B EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - DUSK - RESUME 7B *

Maybe Eben doesn't want to talk if this is how she's gonna be. He covers the cellphone, checks his watch. Opening his door, he YELLS DOWN THE STREET to the departing Billy -- *

EBEN

HEY, BILLY! Stella's at Ransom and 355, can you get her to a plane? *

Billy signals thumbs up, hikes off quickly, as Eben calmly gets back on the cell -- *

EBEN (cont'd) *

Listen, John Riis needs my help with something, so Billy's on his way. You let me know if a day comes when you DO wanna talk. *

7C EXT. BARROW CITY LIMITS - DUSK - SOME MOMENTS LATER 7C *

Stella examines the damage to her rental car -- not pleased. She checks her watch. Even less pleased. Where is Billy? Malekai whines a bit ON HIS CELLPHONE -- *

MALEKAI *

-- yeah, Mom, Stella asked the same thing, could you just give me a tow? *

Stella glances at the damaged car again, decides to take a look at the ditch driller while Malekai haplessly loads all his junk out of the vehicle. She kneels by the tires, inspects the brakes -- and frowns --

BILLY (O.S.)
Your limo's here, Ms. Oleson -- !

Stella jumps up thankfully, grabs her carryon and boards Billy's 4x4 as they talk --

STELLA
You'll be okay, Malekai --
(Malekai waves; to Billy)
Where've you been?!

BILLY
The car keys weren't where I thought, and then I was like, wait, Rogers and 355, or Ransom? And then when I --

STELLA
Never mind, let's go --

7D EXT./INT. AIRPORT ROAD/BILLY'S 4X4 - NIGHT 7D *

Fully dark now. Stella checks her watch, practically writhing with anxiousness --

BILLY
You wanna know how Eben's been doin'?

STELLA
(a beat)
You're gonna tell me whether I ask you or not, right?
(Billy smiles lopsidedly)
Just drive, okay?

7E EXT. PIPELINE - NIGHT 7E *

Three oil workers, 20s, wobble past the PIPELINE. AARON (with half-empty Jack Daniels) and GABE eye DENISE hopefully; while she's no starlet, to them she's Catherine Zeta-Jones --

DENISE
Look, my landlady doesn't want pipeline workers keepin' her up --

GABE
Denise is right, let's head over to my place --

DENISE
 (playfully)
 Neither of you are getting me alone --

AARON
 Then we'll share! Right? None of us
 have to be greedy --

They all laugh, none of them sure where this might be heading
 but willing to see -- as Eben pulls up beside them.

EBEN
 Hey, Aaron -- you know there's no
 drinking till the sun's back up.

They shift, embarrassed to be busted, as Gabe takes the bottle
 from Aaron and hands it to Eben --

GABE
 We don't need it, Eben. We can get
 drunk on Denise's beauty and charm.

DENISE
 (laughing)
 I may throw up.

EBEN
 I won't write you guys up tonight --
 just don't give me another reason till
 New Year's, okay?

AARON
 Yes sir -- we'll be good --

The party walks away with Denise laughing --

8-10 OMITTED 8-10

11 EXT./INT. AIRPORT ROAD/BILLY'S 4X4 - NIGHT 11

Stella stares crestfallen at a SINGLE JET, capacity 120,
 ROARING OFF OVERHEAD --

STELLA
 No, no, no, no -- !

BILLY
 (sympathetic)
 There'll be someone you can bunk with
 for the month --

STELLA
 Don't start, okay?

BILLY

No, I meant Lucy, or Denise, or hey, Peggy and me could even move the girls into one room and you --

STELLA

I can't stay here! I've got bills to put in the mail -- my plants'll die!

BILLY

Well, you can call somebody from our place to handle some o' that, cantcha? You gotta know someone in Anchorage who can help?

(off Stella, not happy)

C'mon, it'll work out. Course, the price of rent at my place might be explaining to me and Peggy what the heck's wrong with you and Eben --

STELLA

Not enough time this century to cover that, Billy --

*

12-13 OMITTED

12-13

14 EXT. RIIS HOME - NIGHT

14

*

Parties are over now, the streets quiet. STEAM still rises from the snow where Riis's dogs died. JOHN RIIS, 40s, and wife ALLY, 30s, wiry and athletic, mourn with Eben.

*

ALLY

What sick jerk would DO this?

RIIS

Every kennel -- every dog we had.

*

EBEN

Fight with anybody lately, John?

RIIS

(shaking his head)

Somebody always freaks out a little once the sun's gone, but it usually takes two or three weeks.

*

ALLY

I'll kill them. I'll kill them.

EBEN

(examining the scene)

This wasn't done long enough ago that
you could get to the airport after.
Whoever did this -- is still in town.

OFF Eben, troubled --

15 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

15

JAKE, 15, plays Risk against himself, moving from one side of
the board to the other. Bright, pale, he's like the love
child of David Byrne and Elvis Costello. As he plays --

JAKE

It'd be easier if you played, Helen --

*

Across the room, HELEN, late 60s, sits at the radio console.
She doesn't like you to know that she's fighting cancer; a
positive attitude is one of her weapons against it.

HELEN

I don't really care for games like
that, if you want to know the truth.
Don't you learn a lot when you play
against yourself?

JAKE

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Playing yourself is
the ultimate blahdy-blah-blah --

Helen nods toward the entering Eben, laboriously sheds his
winter gear --

HELEN

Try your brother.

Eben appraises the gameboard as he takes a blast from an
albuterol INHALER -- something he only does among family --

EBEN

"The Classic Game of Global
Domination." I'm a little jammed
today --

Helen hands Eben some reports --

HELEN

While you were busy with John Riis?
Carter and Wilson called about a
vandalism problem at the Utilidor --

*

Eben sighs, laboriously puts everything back on --

EBEN

Damn. What the hell's goin' on?

He heads out with a nod to Jake, instructions for Helen --

*

EBEN (cont'd)

*

Call Point Hope and Wainwright, see if they're having any troubles --

16 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT

16

THE UTILIDOR SEWAGE PLANT sits on the edge of town: a PUMP HOUSE and TWO TOWERING STORAGE TANKS. From the pump house comes CARTER DAVIES, 50s, Santa Claus build, in a Tourism Bureau T-shirt depicting a license plate reading "ALASKA B4UDIE." He calls to the burly JAYKO TWINS, PAUL AND XAVIER (both 36), cleaning a large SEWAGE PIPE some distance away --

CARTER

Guys, you can't get that pipe fixed tonight. Seal it off from the town and come back tomorrow --

The twins nod and seal off the pipe; Eben walks from his 4x4 --

EBEN

Lord, Carter. It's gotta be ten below.

WILSON BULOSAN joins Carter in the doorway, his down vest reading "POLAR TOURS." Filipino, early 30s, normally gregarious but now troubled, he gestures inside --

*

WILSON

You need to see this, Eben --

17 INT. PUMP HOUSE, UTILIDOR - NIGHT

17

Eben follows Carter and Wilson through the pump house, where Carter monitors the sewage system. His control panel is adorned with knickknacks and photos, especially a PHOTO of Carter with his WIFE AND FOUR KIDS. Eben examines it --

EBEN

Can't your wife send you a sweater or two? And bring the whole tribe back here while she's at it.

*

*

CARTER

(shrugs diffidently)
They'll come when they're ready, I guess --

EBEN
 (gentle advice)
 A family oughta be together, Carter --

*
 *
 *

Carter nods in quiet resignation, acknowledging his friend but
 changing the subject --

*
 *

CARTER
 So I've found all kindsa garbage here
 over the years. Blue jeans, bikes.
 Sometimes I can yank 'em out before
 the Muffin Monster chews 'em to shit --

*

WILSON
 The Muffin Monster?

*

CARTER
 My little nickname for it --

18 OMITTED 18

19 INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT 19

Eben, Carter and Wilson stand before a HIGH-TORQUE, FOUR-SHAFT
 SHREDDER, a device that can literally turn steel drums into
 confetti. This is the Muffin Monster, where all the pipes
lead, disposing of Barrow's garbage and sewage. The razor-
 edged shafts spin steadily. Carter pulls up a trashcan --

CARTER
 Saw Wilson's logo, pulled this stuff
 out before it got totally shredded --

Wilson angrily shows Eben a pile of chewed-up debris -- seat
 belts, fragments of passenger seats, dashboard controls -- a
 couple of which bear the "POLAR TOURS" logo --

*

EBEN
 You keep your copter under lock and
 key, don't you, Wilson?

WILSON
 Yep, I put it in drydock when the
 tourists headed south. Haven't looked
 at it for days.

EBEN
 (examines the damage)
 Could you fix it up if you needed to?

WILSON

Not without parts from Anchorage.
This is my living, Eben. Why would
someone rip the hell out of my bird?

Wilson takes some of the debris and angrily tosses it into the Muffin Monster -- which chews it all up with STARTLING SPEED.

20 EXT. DISH TOWER - NIGHT 20

An impressive SATELLITE DISH TOWER at the north end of town. Bristling with ANTENNAE AND CELL RECEIVERS. The product of big time oil money. The Trans-Alaska PIPELINE runs past the base of the tower, beyond the barbed fence --

It's starting to SNOW, the white flecks swirling about in the darkness. TRACK THROUGH THE SNOW, AROUND THE TOWER --

A DEAD-WHITE FACE FLASHES IN THE STORM -- and is gone before we can be sure we saw it at all --

21 INT. DISH TOWER - NIGHT 21

GUS LAMBERT, late 60s, portly, sits at a control panel, WHISTLES an old swing band tune to himself --

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE -- WE HEAR A DISTANT, ETHEREAL HOWL, ARCING UP THE TOP OF THE SCALE --

Gus stops; he's never heard anything like that before. Still, he'd ignore it until THERE'S AN ELECTRONIC SIZZLE -- HALF THE DIALS ON THE CONTROL PANEL BLINK OUT. Gus grabs his parka, buttons up, and heads for the door --

22 EXT. DISH TOWER - NIGHT 22

Snow falls. Gus opens the door, walks out into the dark, shivering as his breath clouds around him. Behind him: THE CRUNCH OF A FOOTFALL IN SNOW. He whirls, shining his flashlight everywhere in the eerie silence, but sees nothing --

Gus pushes forward into the darkness, as a SHAPE FLASHES BEHIND HIM, unseen by us -- he spins again as there's ANOTHER CRUNCH in the snow. He exploring for the source of the sound, but there's still nothing. He's tensing, realizing he doesn't want to be out here, heading back for the building --

When he comes across several lines of FOOTPRINTS crossing the path back to the dish tower --

Quivering now, following the footprints with his flashlight, Gus comes across a pair of GLEAMING BLACK EYES sizing him up in the darkness --

Then they're gone. He sweeps the beam urgently like a searchlight -- when a SHADOW CROSSES THE BEAM -- MUCH CLOSER TO HIM THIS TIME -- AND THEN IT'S GONE.

Gus works to catch his breath -- what the hell is going on here? Then from right over his shoulder, A LOW GUTTERAL CHUCKLE, HARSH AND HUNGRY --

Gus drops the flashlight and the beam shines into his terrified face. He's surrounded by a GROUP OF SHADOWS, figures that loom menacingly toward him --

GUS

Who -- who are you people -- ?!

WHOOOOM -- A SHADOW RIPS A TALONED HAND ACROSS GUS' NECK --

Blood arcs through the darkness as Gus staggers backward -- and ONE OF THE SHADOWS LUNGES AT GUS. THERE IS A COARSE, SAWING SOUND as Gus's head is wrenched back and forth, the creature SAWING ITS WAY THROUGH GUS'S NECK as they fall -- and then we hear Gus's neck SNAP as they hit the ice, and he is rendered nothing but prey --

23 OMITTED 23

24 EXT. IKOS DINER - NIGHT 24

A little neon oasis in the snowfall --

STRANGER (O.S.)

(WHISPERS)

No whiskey? No rum?

25 INT. IKOS DINER - NIGHT 25

LUCY IKOS, sturdy, late 60s, stares uncertainly at the tense Stranger sitting at her diner counter. The Stranger WILL ONLY EVER SPEAK IN A SIBILANT, SLIMY WHISPER --

LUCY

Alcohol's illegal this month -- folks have a hard enough time in the dark without booze making it worse --

STRANGER

Forget the liquor, Lucy. Bring me a bowl of raw hamburger.

LUCY

You can only get meat two ways around here -- frozen and burnt.

STRANGER

You don't give me what I want to eat.
What I want to drink.

He runs a nail across her cheek threateningly. Eben claps a hand on the Stranger's shoulder --

EBEN

That's enough, pal. Leave the woman
be, time to hit the road.

The Stranger rises, out to intimidate -- he's a bit taller than Eben, but Eben stands his ground without a flinch --

STRANGER

What's wrong with a man wanting a
little fresh meat?

EBEN

If you refuse to leave, I'll escort
you out of here myself.

STRANGER

(looms over Eben)
I'd like to see that.

A GUN BARREL presses against the back of the Stranger's head; STELLA IS HERE, with Billy behind her, as she pulls back the hammer on her weapon --

STELLA

I would too -- but then Lucy'd have to
clean up after Eben kicked your ass,
it's more trouble than you're worth.

As Eben takes out cuffs for the Stranger, he takes in Stella's presence -- too cool to react, but his energy noticeably different as he looks to Stella's gun with a raised eyebrow --

EBEN

Fire marshal's office lets you carry
that?

Stella's also different being around Eben, but she knows the best defense is a good offense --

STELLA

Funny thing, I never asked them.

Eben grins to himself as he cuffs the Stranger; it's clear he respects how tough Stella is. He looks to Billy --

EBEN

My deputy could've helped me here --

BILLY

(an affable shrug)

Yeah, but, well, Eben, it's Stella.

Eben nods; Billy has a point. He tries to keep things diplomatic with Stella --

EBEN

Missed your plane? That sucks. Where are you gonna stay?

STELLA

Billy and Peggy are putting me up.

EBEN

(that sucks, too)

Well. Talk to you sometime, I guess.

It's awkward, and luckily for Eben, he's got work to do. But Stella shoots a look at Billy that maybe she'll leave him here, then looks to Eben as he leads the cuffed Stranger out -- *

STELLA

Maybe I'll come along -- say hi to Jake and Helen -- ? *

Eben's got mixed feelings about it, can't figure out a reason to say yes, can't figure out a reason to say no --

25A INT. EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT

25A

Eben drives while Stella rides shotgun, with the Stranger cuffed and seething in the back. They are silent for several moments, neither of them ready for small talk. Finally --

EBEN

-- suddenly there's more vandalism here than in the last three years --

Silence. Finally --

STELLA

Don't you know how to take care of this town without me?

It's one of those jokes that hit so wrong; Eben's answer could take a day and a half. Finally Stella gets to why she really came along --

STELLA (cont'd)
 Look, I didn't want to mention it in public, but I think somebody screwed with the brakes on the ditch driller --

*

Silence. Finally --

EBEN
 Hell of a day.

STRANGER
 Just wait.

Eben silences the Stranger with a glare, shoots a glance to Stella: let's not talk now, for God's sake.

26 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

26

CELL BARS SLAM in the Stranger's face as Eben locks him up and questions him, Jake watching warily in the b.g.

EBEN
 You don't work at the refinery. You'd have been seen flying in. When'd you get here?
 (off his silence)
 We've got all night --

The Stranger smirks, raising an eyebrow: do they? Suddenly Helen bangs at her monitor --

HELEN
 Oh, criminy! Computer's down.

EBEN
 I'll call Gus --
 (lifting the phone)
 Phone's dead, too.

Eben SLAMS the receiver down in frustration as the Stranger WHISPERS WITH A SMIRK --

STRANGER
 Mr. and Mrs. Sheriff. So sweet. So helpless against what's coming.

Jake pulls into a corner, freaked out. Stella reassures him --

STELLA
 He's just trying to get our blood up.

JAKE
 It's working.

EBEN

We've got better things to worry about. I'll check on Gus.

STRANGER

Check on Gus. Board the windows. Try to hide. They're coming and this time they'll take me with them, honor me for all I've done -- !

EBEN

Who are "they?"

The Stranger stares steadily at Eben, not giving an inch. Jake tries to focus on his game. BEHIND HIM, THROUGH THE WINDOW, A DEAD-WHITE FACE APPEARS FOR A FLASH. THEN IT'S GONE, just as Jake turns, sensing it --

LIGHTS BLACK OUT -- throwing the room into darkness. The Stranger WHISPERS again, surer and surer of himself --

STRANGER

Board the windows -- try to hide --

27	EXT. STREETS - NIGHT	27	
	Amidst the snowfall, the twinkling streetlights BLINK OUT --		
28	OMITTED	28	*
29	INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT - RESUME	29	*
	Jake opens the front door in the darkness, ready to head out --		*
	JAKE		*
	I'll hit the generator --		*
	Eben nods, ransacks a drawer in Helen's desk --		*
	EBEN		
	Take a flash -- here --		*
	HELEN		
	I'll get them --		
	But before Helen can intercede, Eben lifts up a flashlight and shines it on a plastic bag filled with pot. He's baffled --		
	EBEN		
	What the hell is this?		

JAKE
 (off Helen)
 Pot. It helps with her cancer. She's
 got a little greenhouse at home.

HELEN
 (lightly)
 Didn't tell you, didn't want you to
 have to arrest me.

Eben shakes his head, perplexed, hands a second flash to
 Stella as he looks back to Jake --

EBEN
 Now I get why you moved into Helen's
 spare room --

JAKE
 (protests too much)
 Noooo, I just thought you and Stella
 oughta have privacy --

EBEN
 Yeah, that's worked out real well.
 I'm heading for the cell tower.

JAKE
 (off the Stranger's grin)
 We have to stay here with him?

STELLA
 (a good pal for Jake)
 Sure, we can sit here and mock him.

Jake beams appreciatively -- we can see he's glad to have
 Stella back around. Eben notes it, too, but he's too focused
 on his yellow alert to respond --

EBEN
 Helen, as soon as the lines are up,
 get Billy over here. Stay on the
 walkie-talkie with me till the power's
 back --

Helen nods, as the Stranger grins in expectation --

30 EXT. DISH TOWER - NIGHT 30

Snowfall. Eben emerges warily from the 4x4, flashlight and
 pistol ready. He rounds a corner and stops, pale --

The chain-link fence is down, twisted and bent in the snow.
 Eben pulls his weapon, tensing --

EBEN
GUS -- ?!

Silence. He presses forward, seeing the satellite dish pulled down, broken -- the antennas bent and snapped, WIRES SPARKING.

EBEN (cont'd)
What the hell -- ?

Eben continues to search. His flashlight finds a trail of FROZEN BLOOD in the snow, red and glossy. Following the trail, Eben finds GUS LAMBERT'S BODY, decapitated and twisted in a tangle of wires and bent steel.

CONTINUING THE SWEEP WITH HIS FLASHLIGHT -- EBEN SEES A POLE STUCK IN THE ICE -- ATOP WHICH SITS GUS'S HEAD, WIDE-EYED IN PAINFUL DEATH.

Fighting not to vomit, Eben shines the flash everywhere, but he is alone. His breath is heavy, AUDIBLE in the ominous silence. He CLICKS his walkie-talkie --

EBEN (cont'd)
Come in, come in, Helen --

*

HELEN (O.S.)
(ON WALKIE-TALKIE)
Roger, Eben. What happened there?

EBEN
(mind racing)
We're being cut off.

31 EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT

31

Snowfall. As he drives, Eben's voice BLASTS OVER A SPEAKER:

EBEN
-- Sheriff Eben Oleson! This is not a
drill! Stay in your homes! Lock your
doors! Load your firearms! I repeat,
Barrow is under curfew -- !

*

He slows as the 4x4 is approached by a small clutch of worried residents -- the Jayko twins and the ROBBINS FAMILY -- FRANK, MICHELLE, teenage LARRY and seven-year-old GAIL. Eben rolls down his window, working for a voice of solid and calm authority even as his own pulse is racing --

EBEN (cont'd)
Frank, Michelle, you got your
generator running?
(off their nod)
(MORE)

EBEN (cont'd)

Tell anyone without a jenny, meet at the Diner, stay with Lucy, she'll have heat and power there. Don't anyone wander off alone. Get inside, don't let in anyone you don't know. And if you've got guns -- load 'em.

*
*

32 INT. RIIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 32 *

John Riis, mourning, powers up his home generator as he hears EBEN OUTSIDE -- *

EBEN (O.S.)

Lock your doors! Load your firearms --

EBEN'S VOICE FADES AWAY, lights FLICKER TO LIFE as John pulls out his shotgun -- *

32A INT. RIIS DINING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 32A *

Ally calls to the next room, lighting candles for suppertime -- *

ALLY

Let's have dinner, John -- please?
It'll take our minds off --

She sits, closes her eyes a moment, still hurt by the loss of her dogs. Then she opens her eyes, resolving to move ahead --

SMAAASSSSH -- ! THE WINDOW SHATTERS AND A DARK FIGURE HURTLES INTO THE ROOM, hidden for a moment behind the table. Ally freezes in panic: what the hell is she alone with -- ?!

32B INT. RIIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 32B *

Hearing the SMASH, John takes his gun and runs to Ally --

32C INT. RIIS DINING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 32C *

-- seeing Ally SCREAMING, PULLED OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW -- !

33 EXT. RIIS HOME - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER 33 *

Snowfall. Panicked, Riis emerges and PUMPS HIS SHOTGUN, looks this way and that, squinting his way through the snowfall -- WHERE is her SCREAM coming from? He searches the ground for tracks, but the snow's already filling in his own footsteps. He circles about, more and more anxious -- and loses his breath as he sees there's still a faint trail leading to THE CRAWLSPACE UNDERNEATH THE HOUSE --

He kneels, points his gun under the house -- and SOMETHING GRABS HIM, RIPS A SCAR ACROSS HIS FACE.

HE EMPTIES BOTH BARRELS INTO THE FIGURE -- only to GASP as the SHOTGUN IS TORN FROM HIS HANDS, tossed away and lost in a snowbank --

He drops to the ground, HISSING IN PAIN and blinded by the snow, clutching his right leg -- the calf has been broken --

Riis clears his eyes, drags himself crying in pain toward Ally: SHE'S SCREAMING and fighting like a banshee against a shadowy figure. Riis lunges for her, grabs her hand -- *

RIIS *

ALLY -- !!!

But the creature easily drags her away -- Riis tries to hang on, which pulls him underneath the house himself until he can no longer maintain his grip -- *

As Ally vanishes in the dark, SCREAMING --

ALLY

JOHHHHHHHN -- !!

Riis watches her vanish in the distance underneath the neighbors' houses. His eyes are full of loss and pain -- *

34 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 34

Aaron and Gabe face off as Denise watches, laughing --

AARON

All right! Rock, paper, scissors, whoever wins, we go to his place --

DENISE

C'mon, let's DO this and get moving --

The guys wind up -- one, two -- Aaron produces a rock, Gabe flashes his fingers open like a little explosion --

GABE

Nuclear explosion, it burns up rock, paper AND scissors, I win --

DENISE

Talk about desperate --

GABE

Okay, we'll do it the boring way --

Aaron and Gabe face off again -- one, two -- AND SUDDENLY GABE IS GONE, WHIPPED AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS WITH A CRY --

DENISE

Gabe -- ?!!

Aaron stares for a moment in sheer shock -- Denise, frightened, backs away a couple of steps --

AARON

GABE -- ?!

Aaron's call is interrupted by a GNASHING AND TEARING -- a vicious, viscous ripping as GABE SCREAMS A DEATHCRY.

Denise bolts away -- not needing another clue --

AS GABE'S BODY IS THROWN BACK LIKE A RAG DOLL -- SANS THROAT. He keeps convulsing because he hasn't figured out he's dead --

Aaron's paralyzed between staying to fight and running -- AS TWO SHADOWS LOOM UP BEHIND HIM --

35	OMITTED	35	*
36	INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT	36	*
	Weak lights from the generator. Jake plays Risk; Stella and Helen have reluctantly joined in the game --		*

STRANGER

No way out of town. Nobody to come help. Who'll go first, I wonder?

*
*

JAKE

SHUT UP.

HELEN

Ignore him, Jake.

STRANGER

Which of you'll they take first? The woman who thinks a gun'll help her? The kid? Or the old gal?

*

JAKE

SHUT UP!!

Jake loses it, throws a game token at the Stranger, who picks it up, gloating --	*
	*

STRANGER

Thanks for the plastic. I can snap this apart, use it to pick the lock --

The Stranger's doing no such thing -- he's just idly playing with the token, teasing Jake and leading him on --

JAKE
No, you won't --

STELLA
Jake, he can't -- !

Before Stella can stop him, Jake heads for the cell -- *
unprepared as THE STRANGER GRABS JAKE AND PULLS HIM TIGHT *
AGAINST THE CELL BARS --

JAKE GASPS IN PAIN, trying to call out but unable to get his breath as the Stranger slowly strangles him, HISSING:

STRANGER
The keys. Now.

Stella seethes, hating this deal but having no choice. As Helen trembles, Stella picks up Jake's dropped flashlight and reaches for the keyring --

STRANGER (cont'd)
(as JAKE GASPS)
Better hurry --

The keys CLANG as Stella reaches for the lock, opening the door --

STRANGER (cont'd)
Now back away --

As Jake's eyes bulge, Stella steps back, seething and waiting *
for some window to act. The Stranger moves an arm around the *
cell door, ready to swing Jake around as a shield --

Just as Eben FIRES HIS PISTOL THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE FRONT DOOR -- the Stranger drops to the floor as Eben enters --

Jake falls as well, with Helen embracing him --

HELEN
Jake -- !

Eben takes the keys from Stella, opens the cell and stands over the prone form of the Stranger, soberly absorbing what he's done. He looks to Helen, concerned for her -- *

EBEN *
Do you need to go home? Take Jake
with you?

HELEN
 (not sure yet)
 -- what happened with Gus?

EBEN
 (searching for the words)
 Someone -- took him apart.
 (nods toward the Stranger)
 The same day this loon shows up.

Eben checks the magazine in his pistol, as Stella paces restlessly, ready for action --

EBEN (cont'd)
 If everyone followed curfew, his friends won't have many places to hide. I'll find Billy, then work our way from South Street toward the pipeline --

*
 *

STELLA
 I'll join you, too --

*

EBEN
 (thanks, but --)
 I can handle it.

STELLA
 Right now, you, me and Billy are the authorities. Be stupid not to take more help. Whatever your faults, you're not stupid.

*
 *

Eben knows she's right, not going to give her the satisfaction of acknowledging it. He looks to Helen --

HELEN
 We've got the walkie-talkies, we'll be fine.
 (Eben keeps watching her)
 We'll be fine.

*

Eben nods in appreciation to Helen, turns curtly to Stella --

EBEN
 You drive, I'm riding shotgun.

Stella swallows her temptation to talk back --

37 EXT./INT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT 37

Snowfall. Stella drives through empty, dark streets, glancing now and then at Eben, careful not to let him see her doing so.

When she focuses on the road, Eben glances back at her, also not giving any ground. But when he returns his gaze to the road, peering through the snow, he suddenly lifts his gun --

EBEN
Stop the truck.

STELLA
What?

EBEN
STOP THE FUCKING TRUCK.

She brakes quickly, senses on high alert, knowing where Eben's tone comes from. They step out, searching down the street, but there's nothing visible in the snowy haze --

EBEN (cont'd)
I know I saw something --

Stella knows Eben too well to doubt him --

STELLA
Night goggles still in the back?

Eben nods curtly, still staring dead ahead, straining his eyes through the blackness. Stella reaches in the back of the truck, retrieves the goggles, takes a look down the road --

POV GOGGLES: The dark snowy landscape washed in green -- and deep within in -- SHADOWS MOVING, COMING RIGHT AT THEM --

Stella jumps and the goggles SMASH on the road --

STELLA (cont'd)
Get in the truck.

EBEN
What?

STELLA
GET IN THE FUCKING TRUCK.

This time it's Eben who knows Stella too well to doubt. They clamber in, Stella turning the ignition and skidding off down the road in the opposite direction --

38 INT. EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT

38

Eben stares backward -- we don't see what he sees, but it's deeply unsettling him --

EBEN
How many of them ARE there -- ?

WHOMP! Something HITS the roof of the 4x4. Stella swerves as Eben reaches for his gun --

WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! The roof is POUNDED as MASSIVE DENTS appear above their heads. Eben's window SHATTERS --

He reaches out and aims his pistol at the roof, FIRING --

Something TUMBLES OFF THE ROOF, a shadow visible to Stella in her rearview mirror rolling away in the road behind them as she floors it away --

*
*

STELLA
(breathless)
What. The Hell. Was that.

*
*
*

39 OMITTED 39 *

40 EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER 40 *

Snowfall. Eben stands in the open door, shotgun cocked, as Stella drives. They pass a deserted, ransacked HERTZ SPORT & AMMO, and then a quaint CHURCH -- doors open, lit from inside by a still-running generator, with the decapitated body of the MINISTER lying in the open doorway. Far in the distance -- are those GUNSHOTS? A SCREAM -- ?

STELLA
Eben -- ?!

EBEN
(fighting for calm)
Where's it coming from? WHERE'S IT
COMING FROM?

They grimace, straining their ears against the storm. Eben picks up the WALKIE-TALKIE, CLICKS IT ALIVE --

EBEN (cont'd)
(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)
Come in, Helen, take the keys, lock
yourself and Jake in a cell where
nobody can --

*

Helen's SCREAM INTERRUPTS, CRACKLING OVER THE WALKIE-TALKIE --

Eben looks to Stella in shock, doesn't need to say a word as she FLOORS IT, fishtailing the 4x4 for a moment before getting it under control and driving back to the station --

41 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

41

Weak lights from the generator. The door is blasted off its hinges; the windows are shattered and the furniture is tossed around. Eben and Stella move in, weapons drawn -- *

EBEN

No --

On the floor, Helen's body is twisted and bloody -- across the room, her severed head looks over at them sadly. Eben leans back on a desk, short of breath staggered by the shock of losing his grandmother -- he fumbles for his inhaler and gives himself a BLAST --

STELLA

JAKE -- ?! JAKE!!

They sweep the station: no sign of Jake. They appraise the room, wheels turning. The Stranger's corpse lies exactly as they left it in the cell, untouched. They look back on the station from inside the cell -- the door's open, but still they feel trapped -- *

STELLA (cont'd)

Could Jake have gotten away -- ?

Eben walks to the open doorway, seething at how his town's spiralling out of control --

EBEN

We'll find out.

42 EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT

42

Snowfall. Stella drives them off into the barren streets with their ALARM LIGHTS FLASHING, as --

DOWN THE STREET BEHIND THEM -- figures gather in a desolate intersection, watching. When we can catch a glimpse of them through the shadows, they are gaunt, dead-pale, of varying heights and ages from young to seasoned to ancient. Their breath does not cloud in the cold. They wear blacks, greys and browns, their clothing old and worn, most of it scavenged from the dead. Their eyes are ENTIRELY BLACK, diamond-hard and shiny so that the snow sometimes reflects in them. They walk like humans would -- if humans were nothing but muscle and hunger and cruel cunning.

Seventeen of them swarm around the alpha leader of the group -- MARLOW. Mid 30s, feral, ragged, relentless. He cracks the frozen blood on his face, lets it fall as he HISSES in an ancient, glottal, unrecognizable language --

MARLOW
(cry of smug triumph)

IRIS agrees -- drawn, ashen, Marlow's personal bootlicker --

IRIS
(sycophancy, hunger)

ZURIAL -- not as tall as Marlow, but more craven and famished, admires the town. JUST TWO LINES ARE SUBTITLED:

ZURIAL
(There's enough feasting here to keep us strong for a year, Marlow --)

Marlow looks to the town, coldly dispassionate.

MARLOW
(We should've done this ages ago.)

43 INT. IKOS DINER - NIGHT

43

Warmed and lit by a generator, a gathering place for refugees. Denise breaks open the doors, breathless from fleeing --

DENISE
What ARE they?

Wilson Bulosan, in a booth with his father ISAAC, 70s, shakes his head simply as he looks to a panicking Doug Hertz --

WILSON
We don't know.

ISAAC
(dazed, from Alzheimer's)
Wilson -- I want to go home --

Wilson pats his father soothingly as Doug OVERLAPS in frenzy --

DOUG
You shoot 'em and they keep coming!

CARTER
How's that possible?

DOUG
I, I don't, maybe they're coked up on PCP, something so they don't feel bullets? I only got away because they found Kay Lopez, I couldn't save her! They killed every sled dog in town --

DENISE

They took Aaron and Gabe; they're strong guys --

Jake RASPS from a corner, huddling, a poster child for PTSD --

JAKE

They took Helen Shuster --

*

CARTER

Reverend Pfeiffer, Malekai Hamm -- !

LUCY

(terrified)

John and Ally Riis, their house is all shattered! Doc Miller's, too!

*

Eben and Stella, framed in the doorway --

EBEN

Kill the lights --

Panicked, Lucy shuts off the lights. Eben walks to his brother, places a steadying hand on Jake's shoulder as he looks around, does a tactical assessment of the diner --

*

*

*

EBEN (cont'd)

Has anyone seen Billy -- ?

(off the group's silence)

You can't stay here. All the windows, the open space --

*

*

DENISE

Who the hell are these people, Eben?

DOUG

(over; hitting hysteria)

What do they want?!!

EBEN

We'll figure that out after we get all of you someplace safe. Maybe the high school, or the clinic --

STELLA

They already hit the church; they'll scope out any public place.

Eben shoots a quick look at Stella, surprised to be contradicted even as he knows she's right --

CARTER

There's a generator at the Utilidor --

EBEN

(considers)

If we'd headed there when this all started, we might've made it. But it's way out on the edge of town; a group this size, we'd be spotted before we got there. We need someplace close to hide. Now.

They rack their brains. Doug watches them anxiously, sweating in hope that somebody has an answer --

DENISE

Charlie Kelso's attic. There's a pull-down ladder, you can't tell it's there, it'd be tight but we could fit.

STELLA

(shaking her head)

He would've boarded up his home before he left.

EBEN

(this time HE'S right)

Which is why it's a good idea. We can pull down a board to get in, then tack it back --

*

Eben searches the room -- who's the most stable, who does he trust most right now? He settles on his friend Carter --

*

*

EBEN (cont'd)

Carter, lead people close to the buildings, roll under crawlspaces if you hear anything. Go straight to Charlie's attic till I get there.

*

*

CARTER

Where'll you be?

EBEN

Loading up with all the flares and beartraps a 4x4 can carry. SOMETHING's gotta slow 'em down.

Stella follows him toward the door -- their talk now private --

STELLA

I'll cover your back.

EBEN

(can't resist it)

Sure you won't run away to Anchorage?

STELLA
 (that was a low blow)
 Cut me a break.

Eben considers, nods grimly; for now they're in a truce.
 Together they head out, determined --

44 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT 44

Snowfall. Carter leads Denise, Doug, Lucy, Jake, the Bulosans
 under a house, hissing as they creep forward --

CARTER
 Too fast -- no sudden moves --

JAKE
 I'm cold --

CARTER
 You'll be colder dead.

AN ICICLE -- FORMED OF FROZEN BLOOD -- suddenly falls from the
 edge of a house and SMACKS to the ground -- everyone freezes,
 losing a day of life. Then they press on --

45 EXT. IKOS DINER - NIGHT 45

Snowfall. Eben and Stella recon, then hustle into their 4x4 --

46 INT. EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT 46

Snowfall. Stella reaches for the keys -- a moment of
 hesitation as they realize that sound may be their enemy as
 well. THE ENGINE'S unsettlingly loud as Stella pulls away --

47 INT. EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT 47

Snowfall. They turn a corner and drive down Ransom Street --
 when suddenly they're JERKED FORWARD against the steering
 wheel -- the vehicle's come to a dead halt.

STELLA
 We're not moving --

It's true. Warily they look behind them --

48 EXT. STREETS/EBEN'S 4X4 - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 48

SNOWFALL. MARLOW, IRIS AND OTHER CREATURES HOLD ONTO THE BACK
 OF THE JEEP, LIFTING UP THE REAR TIRES --

Stella FLOORS IT -- but she only spins the front wheels in the
 road, while the rear wheels are lifted higher and higher.

The creatures finally up-end the 4x4, turn it on its grille. Falling into the dash, Eben and Stella reach for firearms --

One of the creatures rips Stella's door open -- she FIRES A SHOT THAT CLIPS THE CREATURE ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD. But while anyone else would be reeling, this creature's only stunned by the shot -- its jaws are still open, slavering --

Marlow and Iris finish tipping the 4x4 over -- Eben and Stella are jolted and knocked off-balance --

The creatures SMASH Eben's window -- safety glass blinds him as his gun is grabbed and hurled away into the snow --

STELLA
EBENNNNNN -- !!!

He looks over to see Marlow and Iris dragging Stella from her side of the 4x4, as A GRITTY ROAR RISES FROM NOWHERE --

Eben lunges for her desperately, but he's being pulled out his own side of the 4x4. Their eyes lock: they're about to die --

Until the GRITTY ROAR CLIMAXES: a SNOWPLOW careens out of nowhere, SLAMS Stella's attackers into a brick wall --

Beau Brower is behind the wheel. He reaches out, hauls Stella in. She stretches for her dropped gun, but there's no time --

BEAU
Quick, goddamn it!

Eben's attackers turn toward the snowplow -- Eben scrambles and grabs onto the passenger side as Beau FLOORS IT --

Eben and Stella are both still clambering inside the cab as Beau's driving off, he can't linger an extra second for them. As they land beside Beau, Eben and Stella instinctively look at each other, eyes wide -- they've just seen each other nearly killed, and it's hit them each where they live --

As the other creatures scramble from the snow, one of Eben's attackers has latched onto the rear bumper and starts to climb toward the front of the snowplow as Beau ROARS AWAY --

49 EXT./INT. ROGERS AVENUE/SNOWPLOW - NIGHT 49

Snowfall. Beau turns a corner as Eben slams his door shut at last -- but the creature is slowly, hungrily climbing toward the front of the vehicle --

EBEN
Thanks, Beau --

BEAU

Who's gonna write me tickets if you
get fraggd?

Eben nods, a little too distracted to acknowledge the point any more than that, as Beau checks the sideview mirrors -- all clear. Then he checks his rearview --

THE IMAGE OF THE CREATURE'S EYES AND FANGS FILLS THE REARVIEW!

Beau freaks for a moment -- then WHIPS the snowplow under a LOW-HANGING CANOPY, SHEARING OFF THE CREATURE as he rounds another corner, not sure he's believing what he's just done --

50 INT. SNOWPLOW - NIGHT 50

Snowfall. Eben WHEEZES, fighting for breath, but with the ROAR of the snowplow, Beau doesn't notice --

EBEN

We've gotta ditch this thing, it just
calls them!

BEAU

And go where?

EBEN

We know a place. Stop here -- !

50A EXT. STREETS/SNOWPLOW - NIGHT 50A

Snowfall. TRAVEL OVER, as Beau SLAMS the truck to a halt, to see THE THREE OF THEM SCURRY FROM THE SNOWPLOW AND DISAPPEAR IN A CRAWLSPACE UNDERNEATH A HOME --

CONTINUE TRAVELING for an overview of the whole town -- the majority of the buildings dark with only the occasional generator offering light here and there. The streets are littered with overturned cars on fire, dead bodies lie broken and bloody everywhere. Here and there, we see severed heads on posts -- and the shadowy creatures stalking the streets. It's hell erupting on earth --

TITLE: DAY 1.

51 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT 51

Snowfall. Eben leads Beau and Stella cautiously ahead, Beau brandishing his shotgun -- their only weapon left.

52 EXT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT 52

Snowfall. Across the street from Kelso's house, Eben checks for creatures, while Stella and Beau press up against the side of a building --

EBEN

On three.

He counts off one finger, two, then they run for it. As they carom through the snow, the Kelso house looks sooo far away --

Stella gets there first, uses her car key to pry loose the board over the front door. As it swings loose, Eben and Beau move warily through the front door --

53 INT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 53

Eben and Beau burst inside, breathless, as Stella pulls the board shut. They stand silently by the door, listening for any trace of pursuers. Eben WHISPERS --

EBEN

We can't try the attic just yet.
We've gotta make sure we weren't seen,
we didn't lead them here.

They wait uneasily for a moment --

EBEN (cont'd)

Quietly go through the house, see what
we find --

54-56 OMITTED 54-56

57 INT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER 57

Beau shows off a pair of old kids' walkie-talkies --

BEAU

Kids here left something good --

Eben joins Beau in the hall, carrying canned goods, as Stella arrives an armful of candles and a propane heater --

STELLA

And from the master bedroom --

She produces a PISTOL. Eben holsters it doubtfully -- knowing it won't help, but it couldn't hurt, when --

THHHHUMMMPP -- a sudden sound from OUTSIDE. The three freeze, look to each other --

STELLA (cont'd)
 (tentatively)
 Snow falling off the roof --

They wait, wait -- no further sound. Eben sets down his loot, inspects the hallway ceiling --

EBEN
 It's hidden well --

He pulls at a moulding -- a ladder lowers into place. Cocking the pistol, he places a foot on the rungs --

Carter's face slowly edges into view -- shuddering with relief as he sees it's Eben down below --

58 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

58

Warm with the amber glow from the propane heater, Stella and Eben huddle with the survivors reeling with shock -- Denise, Doug, Beau, Carter, Lucy, Jake, Wilson and Isaac.

EBEN
 How did you know about this attic, Denise?

DENISE
 (a beat)
 Does it matter?

EBEN
 I need the odds someone else could know about it, too.

DENISE
 Um. Charlie hid me here once. When his wife came home early from work.

The others nod, unwilling to judge. Jake frowns, a little confused. Stella finally settles the matter --

STELLA
 Glad he did.

JAKE
 (off the canisters)
 How long will these things last?

EBEN
 Maybe a week. Maybe a little longer.

JAKE
 Then what?

EBEN
Then we find more.

LUCY
And maybe those people give up and go
elsewhere.

STELLA
Where are they going to go, exactly?

WILSON
(as that sinks in)
I don't think they ARE people.

JAKE
(agreeing)
I saw them -- feed on Helen. They
wanted her blood. They're like
vampires, y'know? *

STELLA
Vampires are made up, Jake.

JAKE
Some of them had, like, fangs.

STELLA
Maybe they think they're vampires.
Maybe they filed their teeth down and
they're some sort of cult.

DOUG
(fighting hysteria)
They don't fall when you shoot them!

BEAU
Hell, neither do I.

EBEN
(agreeing)
Just because they're as stubborn as
Beau doesn't make them supernatural.
Look, I don't care what they are. I
just care what we do about them.

DENISE
There won't be any help for a month.

DOUG
(overlaps, despairing)
Ohhhhh God --

LUCY
We can't last that long -- !!

Eben rises, determined to put down the growing panic --

EBEN
Look. We need rest. We'll sleep in shifts. Measure out food. Then figure out the next step.
(a breath)
We have two advantages. We know Barrow. Everything, where to hide, where to attack, where to find resources. And: we know cold --

The others look to Eben, wary but hopeful because they need hope so much, and Eben finds a bit more of his stride --

EBEN (cont'd)
-- we're Alaskans. We build towns where there's nothing but ice. We live here for a reason. Because nobody else can.

OFF Stella, struck by how Eben rises to the moment --

59 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 59

TITLE: DAY 3. The snowfall has ended; a half moon lights the streets along with an incongruously glorious array of stars.

60 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT 60

Denise punches buttons on her cellphone again and again; the screen keeps reading "SEARCHING SYSTEM" -- until finally the screen message changes to: "BATTERY EMPTY -- SHUTTING DOWN." Sighing as another hope slips away, she looks to Carter --

DENISE
Does anybody in town have, like, a ham radio or something?

CARTER
Larry Cooper had one, but he moved to Dillingham. Even if we could radio somebody, they can't get to us --

Eben tears a peephole in a window they've covered in tarpaper, Stella takes a look outside. Nothing. Eben looks out himself, thinking for a moment to himself, his thoughts voiced before he realizes it --

EBEN

If we had kids, this'd be worse.

Stella stares at him quietly -- frustrated not as much by the comment, as by why they fight at all. Before she can answer, she's interrupted by elderly Isaac, sitting up in confusion:

ISAAC

Where's Catherine? Catherine?

Eben watches in concern as Wilson kneels beside Isaac.

WILSON

Mom died from lung cancer, Dad --
sixteen years back.

Isaac frowns, baffled -- when a SUDDEN CRASH OUTSIDE KILLS THE BREATH IN EVERYONE. Stella joins Eben to peer out --

61 EXT. STREET - NIGHT - STELLA'S POV 61

The door to a home is lying in the street -- two of Marlow's creatures are visibly tearing through the place.

STELLA (O.S.)

They're ransacking the Clarks' place --
tearing through everyone's home --

62 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT - RESUME 62

The group absorbs the news with dread, mentally calculating --

EBEN

All right. It'll take them a few days
to get through all the houses --

DOUG

(panics, in Eben's face)
Then they'll start ripping through the
boarded-up places -- we have to move!

EBEN

When do you suggest we do that? When
won't they be out there hunting?

DOUG

We can wait here till they find us and
kill us all, or we can run like hell!
Some of us won't make it, but that's
better'n all of us dying -- !

JAKE

Then you might want to wait a few more days, lose a little weight so you won't be bringing up the rear -- !

Doug SLAPS Jake hard -- which makes Eben automatically, brutally grab Doug by the neck and stare him down --

*
*

EBEN

Start a fight, the noise'll get us killed a lot faster. You want that?

Doug hears, sulking. Eben's gaze sears the point home -- then he drops Doug, takes a deep breath, looks to the others --

EBEN (cont'd)

The Utilidor's the strongest building in town. Its generator's underground, it won't make any noise. We get there, we can last the month. But it's so far, we can't head there till another storm gives us cover.

(looks outside)

The next blizzard, we'll be ready.

63 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

63

TITLE: DAY 6. CLOSE ON Kirsten Toomey, the daughter we met at the airport, wandering the streets -- clothing askew, face bruised. She walks this way and that, terrified and lost --

KIRSTEN

SOMEONE -- !

64 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

64

Doug and Wilson share a can of beets. Eben changes the propane canister. Stella, Lucy, Carter and Isaac sleep -- until they're awakened by Kirsten's pained voice echoing up to the attic --

KIRSTEN (O.S.)

ANYONE -- !

Everyone tenses. Eben peels back the peephole --

65 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

65

Kirsten keeps wandering, desperate and overwhelmed --

KIRSTEN

HELLO -- !

66 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

66

Stella and Carter join Eben, watching in horror --

CARTER
We need to bring her in before they
find her --

He turns to go for Kirsten, until Eben holds him --

EBEN
You think they haven't already?

Carter blinks, confused. Eben points his gaze back outside --

EBEN (cont'd)
Watch --

CARTER'S POV -- Kirsten wanders past --

KIRSTEN
SOMEOOOONE -- !

EBEN (O.S.)
Now look at the roofs behind her --

Carter's POV shifts to the rooftops -- where SHADOWS STALK
KIRSTEN, WATCHING HER EVERY MOVE --

IN THE ATTIC -- Carter looks to Eben, grieved --

EBEN (cont'd)
They could take her anytime they
wanted. They're hoping she'll lure
someone out.

CARTER
So we can't do anything?

Doug questions Eben silently. Carter picks up Doug's gaze; *
his own glance to Eben carries the implicit challenge -- with *
guys like Doug around, you can't be helpless while the town is *
at stake. Eben heeds Carter's advice, decides -- *

EBEN
I'm heading out.

STELLA
Not alone.

EBEN
The more of us go, the more chance
we'll be seen.

BEAU
I'm coming with you.

Agreeing, Stella rises, reaching for her gear --

EBEN
Protecting this attic is the first
priority --
(aside to Stella, private)
Stella, these folks need hope, you're
better at that --

Stella nods; she doesn't like it, but he's right. Eben
reaches for the pistol -- and Beau hefts up his shotgun --

BEAU
So let's go, Eben --

EBEN
I don't want company.

BEAU
Didn't ask what you want. Let's move.

EBEN
Beau, I'm Sheriff of this town, it's
my job to keep you all safe --

DOUG
Yeah, hell of a job you've been doing.

Eben stares daggers at Doug, while Stella turns to Beau --

STELLA
Listen. We have two firearms. Eben's
taking the pistol he found downstairs.
We need the bigger weapon here with
us, Beau. We need you here.

DOUG
I shot one of them to hell, he just
shrugged it off. Weapons won't help.

BEAU
(pugnacious)
Maybe YOURS won't.

Beau takes a post with his shotgun by the trapdoor. Eben
leans into Stella as he leaves, whispers to her --

EBEN
Told you you're better with people --

Stella looks back evenly, not giving him any ground. Holding his breath, Eben quietly lowers the staircase and leaves. Once he's gone, Stella corners Doug, taking no prisoners --

STELLA

I hear another slam at Eben from you,
I'll throw you to those things myself. *

DOUG

(taken aback)
-- I thought you and he were --

STELLA

Thinking. That's where it all goes
awry for you, Doug.

She turns away and looks outside apprehensively -- her thoughts with Eben despite everything --

67-68 OMITTED

67-68

68A EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

68A

In the starlight, white now with exhaustion and pain, Kirsten Toomey makes another circuit of the town -- now some distance from the Kelso house --

KIRSTEN

-- hello -- anybody --

She rounds a corner to find Marlow, Iris and four other vampires looking at her hungrily --

KIRSTEN (cont'd)

Please -- I tried -- there's nobody
left -- please, God --

The vampires circle her slowly, deliberately. The pale, fleshy ARCHIBALD and the cadaverous Arvin look to Marlow, still SPEAKING THEIR ANCIENT TONGUE -- *

ARCHIBALD

(rasp of hunger)

ARVIN

(sycophantic plea)

MARLOW

(permission to begin)

The vampires nod with Marlow's go-ahead -- then we see one FLASH OF A CLAW -- there is a red streak on Kirsten's face --

ANOTHER CLAW FLASHES, THEN ANOTHER -- bit by bit she's being carved away as the vampires each take a turn, circling closer and closer --

While around the CORNER OF THE CLOSEST HOUSE -- Eben sidles into view -- fighting not to be crushed by the discovery that Kirsten is beyond help --

And as he leans against the house, in a moment of grief --

A DRIFT OF SNOW FALLS FROM THE HOUSE TO THE SNOW, A THUD that makes two vampires turn in his direction as Eben steals off --

69-75 OMITTED 69-75

75A EXT. RIIS HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 75A *

Eben hurries to flatten himself against an exterior wall of the house, between supplies for Riis's sled dogs. He works to control his breath -- the sudden move threatening to set off his asthma -- while in the distance he sees the two vampires searching, heading off. He may be safe for the moment -- until his BLOOD RUNS COLD AS HE HEARS:

RIIS (O.S.) *
Ebennnn -- !

EBEN'S POV: Across the street, in the shadows of the crawlspace under his house, is an agonized John Reese.

EBEN
John, how long have you been out here?

RIIS *
(disoriented)
-- not sure --

Eben can sense something's not quite right about Reese, though it's not clear what --

EBEN
Where's Ally -- ?

RIIS *
They took her -- they bit my face,
then took her -- couldn't follow, leg
hurts -- so cold --

EBEN
Hang on, we'll get you to safety --

RIIS *
So hungry -- so hungry --

Eben edges to the edge of the house; all is quiet. He reaches out a hand to Riis -- *

EBEN

I'll pull you out -- just stay quiet --

Eben hauls Riis forward; Riis uses his left leg only to help propel himself. Eben tugs the gasping Riis to his feet, bracing him -- *

And in the moonlight, we can now see that RIIS'S SCAR HAS TURNED BLACK -- HIS EYES HAVE TURNED VAMPIRE-BLACK -- *

RIIS

Ebennnnnn -- *

He opens his mouth wide -- his gums have dried up, making his incisors look as long as fangs. He aims for Eben's face --

Eben sees it just in time -- slugs Riis in the stomach -- *

He pulls away, slipping on ice, losing his gun in deep snow. Riis falls, dazed -- but driven by inexplicable hunger, he limps after Eben, who charges off searching for cover -- *

76 EXT. RIIS BACKYARD - NIGHT 76 *

Eben charges through Riis's backyard -- but one snowdrift is deeper than he expects, and he loses his balance, reaching out to the chains on a child's swingset to right himself -- *

Riis lunges for Eben, the two tangled in the chains, unable to escape each other. Reese's jaws strain to reach Eben -- *

Eben pulls out his pistol, but Riis pries it from Eben's grasp, dropping it so it disappears in the snow -- *

EBEN

What the hell happened to you -- ?

Riis blinks his eyes; he truly doesn't know what happened to him. Eben searches about in panic, his BREATH GROWING RASPIER AND RASPIER, finally seeing -- *

A PILE OF FIREWOOD ON THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE -- AND AN AXE.

Eben strains the chains of the swing -- it'll mean letting go of Riis for a moment, but he dives to reach the axe -- *

Riis, free now, yearns toward Eben, jaws salivating, about to clamp his teeth down on Eben's neck -- *

Eben swings the axe hard, CATCHING Riis in the shoulder -- *

RIIS
 (in pain but still going)
 EBENNNNNNNN -- !!

*

Black blood flows from Riis's wound as Eben wriggles loose, gets his bearings and then SWINGS AGAIN AND AGAIN -- focusing on Eben's pain as he's forced to do what must be done --

*

Finally he staggers back against the woodpile, groping for his inhaler, GIVING HIMSELF A BLAST. But it's the last blast -- Eben tosses the now-useless inhaler into the snow. He's not sure how he'll make it without the inhaler, but for now he has no choice. PAN from Eben toward the swingset, where a headless corpse hangs, caught up in the chains of the swings.

77 INT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT

77

Stella and Beau meet a drained Eben sweeping his tracks. They pull the board closed as Eben joins them inside with his axe --

EBEN
 -- lost my gun --

BEAU
 -- wouldn'ta done any good anyway --

EBEN
 -- think there's close to twenty of them, but there might as well be two hundred -- they're watching everywhere, don't know what they're planning --
 (the worst revelation)
 -- and John became one of them.

Stella and Beau try to absorb this -- it can't be true --

STELLA
 How'd you stop him?

Eben nods grimly toward his bloodied axe --

EBEN
 Nothing lives without a head.

Stella watches Eben wrestling with what he's done --

STELLA
 You had to.

EBEN
 I may have to again -- they can turn us into them --

STELLA

Oh God --

Stella and Eben wrestle with the shock -- the world is so much more horrible than they ever dreamed -- as Beau examines the bloodied axe soberly, eyes full of dread. Stella looks to the attic with a sudden apprehension --

STELLA (cont'd)

If we tell everyone, they'll panic --

EBEN

People deserve to know.

BEAU

And if they don't know, they could get us killed -- they gotta get what's at stake --

STELLA

(still not sure)

How do we tell them?

EBEN

(a beat)

How do we not?

77A	EXT. RIIS BACKYARD - NIGHT	77A	*
	Marlow and Iris grimly examine Riis's corpse, Marlow fingering Riis's fangs with his talon-like nails. He looks to Iris, curious -- THEY did not do this. Who could have?		*
78	OMITTED	78	
79	INT. ATTIC - NIGHT	79	

TITLE: DAY 12. Jake scoops the last from a can of Deviled Ham, looks to Stella --

JAKE

You sure you don't want the last?
 (Stella shakes her head)
 I used to like the little devil on these cans.

STELLA

If we can last till daylight's back -- they didn't show up till sundown. Maybe they can't stand the light. It's only two and a half weeks --

DENISE
 (a helpless laugh)
 Yeah, that's all.

DOUG
 We can't hold out without food -- !

LUCY
 What about other houses? People
 might've left something.

EBEN
 They could be hiding and living on it
 themselves. There were 152 folks in
 town. Billy and his family, Paul
 Jayko, the Robbinses, Adam and
 Jeannie: we're not the only ones left.

*
 *

The others look toward the outside, considering, as Eben shows
 them a crude map he's drawn on the back of a traffic ticket --

EBEN (cont'd)
 Look. Before too long there'll be a
 blizzard. And when it happens, we
 just need to walk.
 (indicating on the map)
 Each lot in town's twenty-five feet
 wide. So the general store's two
 hundred seventy-five feet east. The
 Utilidor's seventy-five west, then due
 north as far as you can go. We can
 hit the store for food and then burrow
 down in the Utilidor.
 (as the others absorb it)
 We know this town. We can walk it
 blindfolded. We just have to wait for
 the weather we've lived with since we
 were born.

The survivors stir with hope; even Doug takes a breath and
 finds a bit of patience. Stella turns privately toward Eben,
 taking him aside --

STELLA
 Hey. You know how you told me you
 could never be a dad? Bullshit. The
 way you look out for these people --

EBEN
 Don't compliment me, you'll just
 confuse me.

STELLA

It's not a compliment. It's an attempt to ram something through that concrete skull: you can pull off more than you think you can.

EBEN

(a beat)

Not if I have to worry my wife'll run away when we can't work something out.

*
*

They glare at each other in frustration -- not sure why every conversation between them has to end in a quarrel --

79A-79B OMITTED

79A-79B

80 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

80

TITLE: DAY 14. CLOSE on Isaac's rheumy, eager eyes --

81 INT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT

81

Isaac has lowered the ladder, he's walking downstairs -- Stella follows him with her flashlight, WHISPERING URGENTLY. Unlike everyone else who must not speak above a hiss, Isaac speaks in his normal full voice, calm and determined --

ISAAC

I'm walking to Wainwright --

STELLA

It's eighty miles, there's no way to get there. Come back upstairs --

Wilson descends the staircase, alarmed --

ISAAC

Wilson! Come along, we need to get out! Bring your mother, too --

Stella holds onto Isaac before he can reach the front door; he works to shake her off.

STELLA

We'll die if you go out there -- !

ISAAC

(angry now)

NO. NO. I'LL DIE IF I STAY IN HERE --

Stella clamps a hand over Isaac's mouth. Stella and Wilson struggle to hold Isaac back -- he wriggles and writhes until finally he CRIES, and stops resisting --

ISAAC (cont'd)
 (WHISPERING AT LAST)
 I'm sorry -- Jesus, look at me -- I'm
 so sorry --

WILSON
 (lost for words)
 It's all right, Dad -- anyone would --

STELLA
 Just stay quiet, Mr. Bulosan --

ISAAC
 (looks around, confused)
 Can I -- the bathroom -- ?

STELLA
 Remember you can't flush, the noise --
 we'll just open the valve afterward --

Isaac nods, not understanding fully but cooperating for now. They lead him delicately to the bathroom and Wilson closes the door on his father -- then slides down the wall, drained. Stella tries to encourage him --

STELLA (cont'd)
 What are the odds we would make it
 this long? We're ahead of the curve.

WILSON
 Every day they need more food.
 They'll be back.

STELLA
 Maybe they'll starve first. Ever
 think of that? We can see in the
 empty houses, they're not rifling
 through pantries, they're not living
 on frozen food --

WILSON
We're their frozen food --

Suddenly, a SLIDING RASP from inside the bathroom. They look to each other in alarm. Wilson TAPS on the door --

WILSON (cont'd)
 Dad?
 (silence)
 Dad -- ?!
 (rising, to Stella)
 Should we break in?

STELLA

The noise.

She pulls out her driver's license, slips it through the door to manipulate it open. She shines her flashlight inside --

Revealing an empty bathroom -- and an OPEN WINDOW.

Wilson turns and runs for the front; Stella catches him --

STELLA (cont'd)

Wait! You can't just rush out there!

WILSON

HE'S MY FATHER -- !

Wilson tugs loose -- Stella reaches for him again. Without warning he turns around and SLUGS her flat -- she lands with a THUMP as Wilson escapes out the front door --

82 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS

82

The THUMP makes Eben's eyes blink instantly awake --

EBEN

Stella -- ?

He searches the room. Only Doug and Lucy are awake. Lucy points down the ladder. Eben bolts up, disoriented and alarmed, and reaches for his axe --

83 INT. KELSO HOME - NIGHT

83

Eben descends the ladder warily, axe ready -- only to find Stella dazed on the floor where she fell --

EBEN

What the hell happened?

STELLA

I'm fine, thanks --

He knows that, but he's too alarmed at the signs of danger to say anything of comfort --

EBEN

How long has this ladder been down?

STELLA

(getting her bearings)

Oh God -- maybe five minutes --

Eben lifts the ladder back into place, as Stella rises --

STELLA (cont'd)
Isaac took off for Wainwright. Wilson
went to find him --

EBEN
And you let them go?

Stella rubs her jaw; archly --

STELLA
Yeah, that's just what I did.

84 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

84

Wilson moves quickly, risking death every second he's out --
in the attic he was only wearing a down vest, unprepared for
the savagery of the cold --

WILSON
(hissing)
Dad! Dad -- !

Silence. SNOW BEGINS TO FALL, WIND GROWS. Wilson looks to
the sky, down an alley, under a house, growing desperate --

The loose door of a house SLAMS in the wind -- Wilson
startles, backing away from the house --

Shivering, teeth starting to chatter, he's realizing this is a
very BAD idea, but he can't abandon his father --

WILSON (cont'd)
Daaaad -- !

His breath billows -- he wipes snow and tears from his face --
steps into a small snowbank -- and is suddenly PULLED THE REST
OF THE WAY IN --

He starts to GASP -- when his cries are MUFFLED IN THE SNOW.
Second by second, the snowbank turns RED WITH HIS BLOOD.

85 INT. KELSO HOUSE - NIGHT

85

Eben and Stella simmer, bitter with losing Wilson --

EBEN
You should've stopped him.

STELLA
I fucking tried.

EBEN

Oh yeah? How hard? Part of you
probably thought: of course he should
look for his dad, right?

*

STELLA

(a beat; stung)
At least Wilson went out doing what he
had to, for his family --

*

*

*

Eben can't believe she's throwing this at him now -- tersely
he returns the favor --

*

*

EBEN

Or he was just screwed because someone
ran out on him.

*

*

*

Eben and Stella stare each other down -- too angry to know how
to work through this until --

AN EERIE SCRATCHING SUDDENLY FILLS THE ROOM ABOVE.

Eben and Stella scramble upstairs and pull the ladder closed --

86

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

86

THE SCRABBLING AND SCRATCHING ACROSS THE ROOF CONTINUE,
freaking everyone as Eben moves to kill the propane heater --

EBEN

(hissed)
Get down -- cover up -- !

Eben, Stella and Jake flatten against the wall by the
peephole. The others dive under sleeping blankets -- fighting
to stay quiet and remain still --

THE SCRABBLING MOVES FROM ONE SIDE OF THE ROOF TO ANOTHER --
THEN IT DOUBLES AND TRIPLES, AS IF THERE ARE THREE CREATURES
ON THE ROOF NOW --

Lucy quivers, Denise and even Doug both tremble as they feel
surrounded --

There is silence for a moment -- the survivors wonder if they
can relax --

THEN DENISE STIFLES A SCREAM AS A CRUEL BLACK EYE LOOKS IN
THROUGH THE WINDOW, SEARCHING --

Eben tenses, his breathing tight and thin. Stella and Jake
look to him in concern --

After an achingly fearful moment, the eye disappears, the SCRABBLING SOUNDS STOP.

Eben looks to the others, his voice tight with congestion and alarm -- clearly the Kelso house is compromised now --

EBEN (cont'd)
It's snowing -- grab trashbags from
downstairs, we're getting all the food
we can carry --

*
*
*

But his breathing is also compromised -- Eben's chest heaves, sucking in air. Stella approaches, sotto voce:

STELLA
Your inhaler --

DOUG
(not sure he heard that)
What -- ?

EBEN
(between breaths)
Useless -- threw it in the snow --

DOUG
WHAT -- ?

STELLA	DOUG	
What're you going to do without an inhaler? Do they have them in the store -- ?	Wait a minute wait a minute, what? You've got, like, some kinda breathing problem?	* * * *

Eben nods tersely to both of them, fighting for breath, as Doug reappraises Eben in a panic --

*

DOUG (cont'd)
We're following your plans, and you're
keeping secrets? What else don't we
know -- ?

*
*
*

EBEN
(had enough of this)
-- shut up, Doug --

DOUG
Fuck no! YOU shut up!

Furious, Doug SHOVES Eben back -- and even through his pained breaths, Eben BACKHANDS Doug into the wall. Stella intercedes as Eben braces himself against Jake, pulling in air --

STELLA
Jesus, Doug!

BEAU
(over, re Eben)
He's right, we need food -- !

Doug's about to speak again, when Jake SLAMS him to the floor:

JAKE
What the hell?! When the shit went
down, who kept it together? You were
busy shouting, "They can't be shot!"
Who kept it together?!

They both know the answer. They look to Eben, who's finally
recovering his breath bit by bit. Raspily Eben settles it:

EBEN
-- we need to move --

87 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 87

TITLE: DAY 15. Snow falls harder and harder on Barrow. A
GUNSHOT ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN --

88 INT. COLLETTA HOUSE - NIGHT 88

A modest home. Adam Colletta and his wife JEANNIE, 30s, lie
on the living room floor, wrenched from their hiding place.
Adam, a newly-fired pistol in his hand, stares in amazement --

Marlow, BLOOD DRIPPING FROM HIS CHEST, glares at them while
ripping the gun from Adam's hands. He speaks in a GUTTERAL
RASP -- his English not easy, his accent unplaceable --

MARLOW
You had your chance to help us find
your friends. Now, you'll have to
watch.

*
*

Marlow lifts up Adam, reaches for a fireplace poker, and
IMPALES Adam through the guts and into the wall. Choking in
pain, Adam is unable to move as Marlow takes Adam's chin and
directs his gaze toward Iris --

MARLOW (cont'd)
Iris. You may take your time.

Neither Marlow nor Iris takes any sadistic pleasure from this;
it's simply the price that Adam and Jeannie must pay for
resistance. Iris reaches for a hand of the terrified, sobbing
Jeannie -- WE HEAR HIS FINGERS SNAPPING ONE AT A TIME --

*

ADAM
 NOOOOooooooo -- !

Marlow, not as distracted by this as he wishes he could be, drops his hold on Adam, wanders to the stereo system. As Jeannie GASPS in the b.g. with each finger SNAPPED, Marlow rests a talon on a phonograph record sitting on the turntable. It's almost as if, through his talons, he listens to the music in the record grooves, his thoughts alive but unreadable --

89 INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

89

Everyone is thinner, dirtier, drained. Eben faces them, energized for a plan, a plan not everyone trusts yet --

EBEN
 -- the fastest of us head to the store for food and supplies -- then if the storm's still holding out, we all go to the Utilidor.

DOUG
 (quiet, surly)
 You really think we can make it?

EBEN
 You can't see a foot out there. So neither can they. The whiteout will cover our tracks -- if we leave now.

CARTER
 And how do we get into the Utilidor? It's locked tight -- hell if I know where my keys are --

Eben and Stella trade looks -- wheels turning --

EBEN
 That sewage pipe. The one the twins were fixing -- ?

CARTER
 (thinking it through)
 It's shut off from the rest of the town. It'll lead straight underground and inside.

LUCY
 (wincing at the idea)
 The sewage pipe.

*
 *
 *

EBEN

It hasn't been used in weeks. Be glad you'll be alive to smell it. And once we're out there -- NO STOPPING. There's no fighting these things, we have to move move move --

*

90 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 90

Whiteout. HOWLING WIND. Scarved and masked, Eben carries his axe as he leads the survivors step by step through the biting snow, as SCREECHES ECHO DISTANTLY around them. Lucy stumbles, Carter helps her as they fight to clear their vision. Through the chaos, we hear Eben's BREATH, SHALLOW AND TENSE --

91 EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT 91

Whiteout. Marlow (chest now wrapped in clothes from Adam Colletta) stands with Iris, peering through the sheets of snow -- SCREECHING IN ANGER --

92-93 OMITTED 92-93

94 EXT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT 94

Whiteout. Eben and his crew feel their way up the steps of the general store. Lucy practically sobs with relief as Carter helps her in. The doorway looms like a black hole with snow collecting in the open threshold --

95 INT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT 95

Stella runs her flashlight over the store as Eben's ready to swing his axe -- all appears clear. The survivors pull plastic trashbags from their parkas, as Eben looks first to Beau, Lucy, Denise and Doug --

*
*

EBEN

You four, grab all the canned goods you can. Stella and Carter, propane and batteries. Jake, medical supplies. I'm getting axes and bear traps. You have two minutes.

96-97 OMITTED 96-97

98 INT. PHARMACY COUNTER - NIGHT 98

Jake stuffs his bag with pain meds and bandages. Eben passes him and grabs a handful of INHALERS. Eben pops one open, shakes it, BLASTS HIMSELF GRATEFULLY, shoves the inhalers in a pocket and moves on with a new energy --

*

99 INT. HARDWARE AISLE - NIGHT 99

Eben pulls three bear traps, tucks them under one arm, then reaches for axes. Down the aisle, Stella and Carter bundle up more propane canisters and batteries --

100-102 OMITTED 100-102

103 INT. FOOD AISLE - NIGHT 103

Denise, Beau and Lucy collect cases of Ensure. Doug *
 additionally stuffs his pockets with Oreos, grimly chuckles -- *

DOUG

Told my wife I wouldn't live on these
 while she was gone --

DENISE

She'll cut you slack.

As they wad their trashbags full of emergency nutrition, they *
 hear a quiet SOBBING coming from the back. The four of them
 exchange looks, and warily walk toward --

104 INT. REAR STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 104

Where they see, from behind, the source of the SOBBING -- a
 LITTLE GIRL, bent over the prone, bloodied body of Tom
 Melanson, the kid we met kissing his girlfriend farewell --

DENISE

It's Tommy Melanson --
 (to the girl)
 Oh, honey, you need to come with --

The girl turns and looks at them. Her mouth is covered in
 blood, and we see now that it's Tom Melanson who's doing the
 sobbing -- the girl is a vampire --

LITTLE GIRL

I'm done playing with this one --

She places a taloned hand on Tom's jaw and RIPS as she eyes
 them eerily --

LITTLE GIRL (cont'd)

You want to play with me now?

The four onlookers freak -- Beau reaches for a shovel to serve
 as a weapon, while the others charge back into the store --

105 INT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

105

Denise hisses in a panic toward Eben and Stella --

DENISE

In the back -- !!

Beau's tossed violently back into the store like a toy, the shovel clattering uselessly behind him. Eben drops his beartraps, brandishes an axe, ready to swing --

But the little girl careens out of the storage room like a dervish, presenting a smaller target than Eben expected -- he swings over her head and she knocks him down --

The little girl's about to pounce on Eben when Stella grabs her from behind and THROWS HER AWAY DOWN THE AISLE --

Doug pulls Denise toward the front, as Carter reaches for a can of MACE and sprays it into the little girl's face --

IT SHRIEKS and only lunges for Carter all the harder, ripping off his cap and baring her fangs --

But now Eben's back -- he charges the girl and fights to pin her against the wall -- she kicks and spits like a snake --

Eben looks for help -- Beau and Stella join him to pin the girl as she nearly wriggles from their grip -- they can't hold her long --

EBEN

The axe -- somebody -- !

DOWN THE FOOD AISLE --

Doug keeps pulling Denise and Lucy toward the door --

DOUG

Come on -- !

The women waver, not sure if they should run out yet --

IN THE HARDWARE AISLE --

The little girl kicks and twists -- Eben, Beau and Stella are losing their grip on her as Carter reels in pain in the b.g. --

EBEN

SOMEBODY! THE AXE -- !

And an axblade FLASHES past Eben's face --

Suddenly the little girl's body is still -- writhing only in automatic nervous movement for a few moments. Eben, Stella and Beau look up to see --

Jake -- axe in hand -- falling backward against the dry goods, knocked for a loop by what he's done, fighting tears --

Eben embraces his brother in concern -- then looks to Doug, Lucy and Denise as they slowly emerge --

EBEN (cont'd)
Where the hell were you?!

DOUG
(a beat)
I thought we should get the food back
to the others -- in case you lost.

Eben rises in pain, catching his breath as he considers Doug's plan -- then ruefully claps Doug on the shoulder --

EBEN
Smart call.

Jake stands over the corpse, still overwhelmed --

JAKE
She -- just a girl --

STELLA
(consoling him)
Not anymore.

DENISE
She spoke to us. In English. Was she
some girl they just turned -- or one
of them? Does anybody recognize her?

EBEN
(correcting Denise)
It. Not her.

They look toward the decapitated head, wincing. Nobody has an answer. Lucy walks toward the front door, reeling. Carter (scarf tightly wrapped around his head) sounds nauseated --

CARTER
It pulled Tom's head off before it
attacked us --

STELLA
Maybe they don't just do that out of
bloodthirst --

EBEN
 (agreeing)
 They want to keep their numbers down.
 They don't want to give themselves
 competition.

Eben and Stella share a look: no enemy has ever been more
 ruthless --

LUCY
 (from the doorway)
 The whiteout's over --

106-107 OMITTED

106-107

108 EXT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT

108

Eben and Stella appear in the doorway in panic toward the
 front -- to see it's true. The snow has eased to the point
 where the street is visible again through the front door --

STELLA
 Our cover's gone.

EBEN
 And the fresh snow'll show tracks.

They regard each other in dread --

109 EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

109

Lighter snowfall. Marlow and Iris stand and shake the snow
 from their shoulders, ready to hunt again --

Across the street, they see two other vampires climbing along
 the eaves of houses, also starving --

110 INT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT

110

The survivors huddle in the back, trapped, brainstorming --

EBEN
 They watch the store more than
 anyplace else. We need to move or
 we'll be trapped.

DOUG
 We can't get to the Utilidor. It's
 too far without cover.

CARTER
 Could we make it back to your station
 if somebody created a diversion?

Eben studies his old friend, hearing how Carter's offering himself for that role --

EBEN

It's not going to be you, Carter --

Eben and Carter face off, respecting each other's bravery -- when Stella speaks up with the energy of a new plan --

STELLA

It won't be you either. These things can't survive the sun. What if we brought the sun early?

EBEN

Like exactly?

STELLA

Helen had that medical marijuana operation at home --

*
*

JAKE

(getting it)
Yeah -- she used an ultraviolet lamp to grow the stuff --

*
*
*
*

DENISE

(desperate humor)
All right, Helen!

STELLA

I can run for her place -- let them follow me -- then fry them with the sunlamp while the rest of you beat it to the sheriff's station.

DOUG

What the hell makes you think a sunlamp will make a dent in them?

CARTER

(overlapping)
We've got all kinds of wattage at the Utilidor and they still came and ate Xavier Jayko --

STELLA

Ultraviolet, Carter. There's no UV light here for another two weeks. It'll be the last thing they expect.

BEAU

Just because something stopped Bela Lugosi doesn't mean it'll stop these things.

STELLA

They didn't show up till it was dark. Why would they use that stranger to cut us off -- unless they just can't handle sunlight?

JAKE

What if it doesn't work -- ?

STELLA

(she's got nothing)
It has to.
(a deep breath)
Take this, I need to run light --

She tries to hand Eben the propane, but he shakes his head --

EBEN

I can run fastest.

JAKE

Bullshit. I weigh less than you, I don't have asthma --

EBEN

(suddenly harsh)
SHUT IT, JAKE --

JAKE

(re the asthma)
What, everybody knows now -- !

EBEN

You're fifteen. Forget it.

JAKE

I'm fifteen, right. You've got a wife, people need you --

EBEN

(into Jake's face)
I saw you when you killed that girl. Crying little boy. You try and tell me you're up to doing that three or four more times. What do you say?!

It's harsh, but Eben has to be harsh to keep Jake here. Jake's stunned silent;

he can't help resenting how right Eben is. Stella glances at Jake, underscoring the idea that Jake had better not push it, then looks back to Eben --

STELLA

You don't even think this plan'll work.

EBEN

But you do. Right?

She's silent, realizing Eben trusts her this much --

EBEN (cont'd)

Look, who's the sheriff, and who's the bureaucrat from Anchorage? I'm making the run. I'll stop them with the sunlamp and see you back at the attic.

She steels herself, reluctantly handing him the walkie-talkie.

STELLA

You'll need to start her jenny first.

JAKE

It's in her sideyard by the woodpile. Head in the back door, the pot's growing in the laundry room.

STELLA

(holds Eben to this)
See you soon.

He turns to go -- she's loving and hating him for putting himself on the line like this --

111 OMITTED 111

112 EXT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT 112

Light snowfall, ethereal calm. Until Eben BOLTS out of the store, setting a land speed record as he lets his AXE WHACK AGAINST LAMPPOSTS, drawing attention away from the store --

113 OMITTED 113

114 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 114

Light snowfall. Marlow, Iris and two other vampires HEAR THE SOUNDS EBEN'S CREATING -- they turn a corner to see Eben speeding away at the end of the next block --

- 115 EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 115
 Light snowfall. A modest, unassuming home, its front windows broken. Eben, WHEEZING, caroms into the side yard and pushes the generator button. Nothing. He pushes it again, again -- finally it STARTS WHIRRING TO LIFE --
- 116 EXT. NEW STREETS - NIGHT 116
 Light snowfall. Marlow's pack turns in the direction of the GENERATOR STARTING UP --
- 117 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 117
 Eben, breath thicker and thicker, runs into the laundry room -- finds the pot garden. He BLASTS HIS INHALER as he flips on a lightswitch --
 A BULKY ULTRAVIOLET SUNLAMP -- SIX FEET LONG -- ILLUMINATES THE NOW-DEAD PLANTS --
 Eben laughs despite himself, light's never been so beautiful --
- 118 EXT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT 118
 Light snowfall. Stella ushers the others, arms full of supplies, out into the street --
 STELLA
 (hissing)
 Go, go, go -- !
- 119 EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 119
 The snow has stopped. Marlow, Iris and the others reach Helen's house, eyes filled with murderous anticipation -- *
- 120 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 120
 Eben readies the sunlamp, steeling himself for confrontation --
 The floor CREAKS -- and Eben freezes. They could come at him from any direction. The MOAN of the wind through the house SLAMS A DOOR open and shut somewhere, keeping him on edge --
- 121 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 121
 Stella's party hustles ahead -- Beau in the lead, Denise, Lucy * and a bundled-up Carter behind him, followed by Jake and Stella. Doug, in the rear, stumbles in a snowdrift, his store of food spilling everywhere. As he scrabbles in the snow quickly to retrieve it all --

WHOOOOM -- there is a flash of black -- a vampire drops from the rooftops onto Doug --

He lashes at Doug's neck, **KEENING** to call allies as Stella's party disappears around a corner ahead --

Stella turns at the **KEENING** of the vampire, the **GURGLING SCREAMS** from DOUG -- but Carter pulls her onward. In a cold sweat, she knows she must keep the others moving --

122 EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 122 *

The survivors haul inside -- faint lights flickering as the jenny fights on. Beau covers them at the door with his shotgun as Stella copes with her fear for Eben -- *

123 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 123

Eben's primed for the attack -- but still it's a shock when the vampires **BREAK DOWN THE DOOR** after Eben. He sucks in all the breath he can, and aims the sunlamp at them --

IRIS SIZZLES -- her skin charring as she **KEENS IN PAIN** and staggers away --

Eben holds fast -- this rare victory overwhelming him with relief, even as his eyes widen in awe at this uncanny sight --

Marlow pulls Iris away, but **LOCKS EYES** with Eben for one moment -- nobody has ever destroyed one of his toys. He will not forget Eben --

Marlow backs away with the dying Iris before he can be hit with the next blast of UV light --

124 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 124

Jake looks soberly at the floor, where shreds of Helen's dress and the Stranger's clothes lie amid **BLOODSTAINS**. Stella kills the lights, fires up the **WALKIE-TALKIE** -- *

STELLA

Eben, we're safe -- your status?

125 INT./EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 125 *

Eben looks out the window -- outside Iris is collapsing to the ground, a **CHARRED HUSK**. Marlow is **VISIBLY ORDERING** the other two attackers to tear the generator loose -- *

EBEN

It worked once -- but they're killing the power -- !

126 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT - RESUME

126

Stella, Beau and the other survivors listen in alarm --

EBEN (O.S.)
(on WALKIE-TALKIE)
-- I'll have to run for it somehow --

DENISE
(hushed, despite herself)
He's toast --

Forget about their quarrels -- Stella slowly dies inside at the knowledge that she's losing Eben --

Beau's struck by Stella's pain -- moved despite himself -- and grabs the walkie-talkie from Stella, CLICKING IT ON --

BEAU
I'll get you a shot, Sheriff. Break out and tear for Rogers Avenue, run toward the ditch driller --

*

EBEN (O.S.)
The brakes are jammed on that thing --

*

BEAU
What I got in mind don't need brakes.

Beau hefts the bear traps, heads for the ladder, resolved, as his plan becomes clear to a stunned Stella --

STELLA
Beau -- ?!!

Beau pulls a wad of unpaid tickets from his parka --

BEAU
Tell Eben to mark these paid in full, okay?

STELLA
You can't -- !

BEAU
Eben's done his turn as decoy --
(honestly now)
-- he's needed more'n I am --

*

*

*

OFF Stella, both scared and touched --

127 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 127
Eben charges out the front door, while behind the house --

128 OMITTED 128 *

129 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 129 *
Marlow SMASHES the sunlamp as he urges the others after Eben --

130 EXT. ROGERS AVENUE - NIGHT 130
Eben darts with his axe from house to house, seeing the street *
sign for Rogers Avenue --

131 EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 131
Marlow SNARLS in pursuit, pointing out Eben's footprints to *
the others -- HOWLING IN BLOODLUST --

132 EXT. ROGERS AVENUE - NIGHT 132
Marlow's trio is joined by FOUR MORE VAMPIRES answering the
howl -- the seven prowl down the avenue in search of Eben.
They pause when they hear a LOW GRUMBLING ROAR behind them --

Suddenly an enormous **CHAINSAW** lunges at Marlow's crew -- the *
ditch driller. With an impudent Beau at the wheel. The *
chainsaw's steel teeth RIPPING through one vampire's body -- *
TORN IN HALF as Beau steers the ditch driller forward --

BEAU
Who's next, huh?

The vampires swarm toward the ditch driller furiously -- one *
of them jumping into the dump bay to attack Beau from behind --

SNAP! He lands in a steel BEAR TRAP camouflaged under the
snow. The trap's TEETH rip into his leg -- he bleeds black
upon the snow and falls off the truck -- mauled by the tire
chains as Beau drives over him --

EBEN runs to help, outdistanced as Beau drives the ditch *
driller away with the vampires swarming over it. Eben stares *
in awe --

133 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 133
Beau sees two vampires swarming onto his hood, bashing at the
windshield and creating SPIDER-WEB CRACKS THROUGHOUT. He
SWERVES AND FISHTAILS -- hurtling the vamps this way and that.
One slips and falls into the CHAINSAW --

Beau FLOORS the gas again --

BEAU
Welcome to Barrow! Top of the world!

134 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 134

Stella watches around the edge of a windowblind for Eben --

While Carter uses a small flashlight to look into a MIRROR.
His face is scarred -- skin dead-white -- EYES NOW DEAD-BLACK.

135 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 135

Beau drives on, as vampires race toward the ditch driller from *
the alleys. He aims his SHOTGUN at them -- pumping rounds.
LOADING. RELOADING. SHOOTING. Driving back enemies --

-- but the swarm is inevitably starting to engulf him. He
circles back onto --

136 EXT. ROGERS AVENUE - NIGHT 136

-- and steers toward the ADMIRALTY BAY HOTEL as vampires *
SHATTER the windshield. Powering straight into the hotel,
Beau SCREAMS ALL THE WAY as the ditch driller impacts -- *

137 INT. HOTEL - NIGHT 137

Sudden quiet. The ditch driller sits in the middle of rubble. *
Beau grabs his shotgun and a box of FLARES from the truck,
climbing out through the windshield --

No sign of his enemies. He slides, dazed and bleeding, off
the hood of the truck and looks about --

Emerging from the rubble, six vampires surround him -- two of
them still pinned in bear traps -- all of them viciously
angry. Beau lifts his shotgun --

CLICK. Empty. He grins punchily -- reaches for a flare --

BEAU
You ain't gonna eat me --

HE LIGHTS A FLARE, drops it in the box -- EXPLODING THEM ALL --

138 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 138 *

Eben stops for a second in heartbreak, regarding the FIERY *
GLOW from Rogers Avenue -- Beau's sacrifice. *

139 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT 139 *

Beau's attackers, on fire, throw themselves into the snow as Marlow, waiting outside, looks on in disgust. At last Beau himself staggers out, GASPING IN PAIN, near dead, walking on autopilot, a charred wreck of a man finally collapsing atop the fallen sign for the ADMIRALTY BAY HOTEL -- *

MARLOW SNARLS IN HIS INHUMAN TONGUE -- and lifts his boot above Beau's head. OFF THE SOUND OF THE SICKENING CRUNCH -- *

140 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 140

Eben returns and a relieved Stella hugs him for all he's worth -- he's too drained to respond except to mourn --

EBEN

Beau.

STELLA

(sadly nodding)

And Doug. *

Stella reaches toward Eben in grief -- they take hands. In the b.g., Jake, Lucy and Denise stop sorting the canned goods to honor Beau's loss, while Carter broods from a corner. *

Eben and Stella shake with pain, absorbing the tragedy -- *

Then Eben embraces Stella with all the passion he has ever felt for her.

The two of them reconnect, all past quarrels forgotten -- nearly shaking with the depth of their need for each other --

They reach for breath and share a deeper look, affirming their bond -- as Lucy breaks the moment, trying to wrap her head around all the losses -- *

LUCY

Now there's six of us. *

CARTER

Soon there'll be just five. *

Carter pulls back his hood and shows them his DEAD-BLACK EYES. *

The others tense in fear, watching Carter sweating and trembling like a malaria victim -- as Eben and Stella steel themselves to fight Carter if they have to -- *

CARTER (cont'd)
 -- the girl in the store. I changed --
 -- so thirsty now -- what do you
 think, do those things live forever?

Eben lifts his axe warily --

STELLA
 I -- don't know --

CARTER
 Couldn't tell you -- that photo's all *
 I've got left of my family -- Martha *
 took the kids to visit her mom, they *
 were hit by a drunk driver -- *
 (fighting back tears)
 I wanted to join them so much --
 couldn't bring myself to do it -- but
 I know they're waiting for me --
 (bitterly)
 I can't live forever. Don't let me --

STELLA
 (sheer denial)
 No. No. Carter --

EBEN
 (it's sinking in)
 He's told us what he wants -- *

Eben stares her down -- until she sees there's no other way.
 Eben lifts his axe, nods to Carter, walks with him to the
 station's kitchen.

Stella watches them go, eyes full of tragedy. Nearly writhing *
 with helplessly, Stella dreads what she's about to hear -- *
 waiting, waiting -- *

And after a moment, we hear the cruel THUNK of the axe -- *

Stella and the other survivors wince, knowing their friend is *
 gone now. At last Eben trudges back in, aching, walking *
 across the station, unable to look at any of them now. *

Desperate to help, Stella crosses to him and WHISPERS -- *

STELLA *
 We can make it. We got food enough *
 for two more weeks. *

EBEN *
 (fiercely) *
 STOP IT. *

STELLA
Stop what? Stop hoping?

Eben looks at her -- considers --

EBEN
The last hopeful idea took away three
people I've known my whole damn life.

Quietly, carefully, Stella reaches toward Eben --

But in the wake of losing Carter, Eben pulls back, no longer
able to accept consolation. They stand not far apart and yet
so aware of the chasm between them -- yearning to bridge the
gap yet not knowing how --

As Eben's searching for words, suddenly he blinks --

EBEN'S POV -- a small LIGHT FLASHES OUTSIDE --

EBEN -- flares with a new sense of mission --

EBEN (cont'd)
Someone's alive --

They move to the doorway, wary as they study the FLASHING --

STELLA
Morse Code --

141-143 OMITTED 141-143

144 EXT. KITKA HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 144

From a window on the upper floor of a ransacked house two
doors down across the street, a PENLIGHT KEEPS FLASHING --

EBEN (O.S.)
It's Billy --
(decoding)
Hid in the vents -- they tore through
his house --

145 INT. KITKA HOUSE - NIGHT 145

Wedged against a window by a pile of furniture hurled into a
corner, Billy Kitka -- Eben's childhood friend who reported
the vandalism of the Snowcats -- desperately works a small
PENLIGHT on his keyring --

146 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 146

Stella watches as Eben decodes the Morse Code FLASHES --

EBEN
 (reading)
 He'll warn us when it's safe -- he can
 see the town, they're coming back -- !

The flashing light DISAPPEARS to blackness as Stella and Eben
 close the door in alarm --

147 EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 147 *

Marlow stalks up to where the CHARRED BODY OF IRIS lies upon
 the icy tarmac -- glowering as he regards her ruined form -- *

He kneels beside her, running his nails along her skin. It
 almost looks sentimental -- *

Until he suddenly, viciously SINKS HIS TEETH INTO HER NECK,
 starting to feed -- nothing is more important than his hunger. *
 After a moment, he comes up for air, face bloody -- and eyes *
 full of the need for vengeance -- *

148 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 148

TITLE: DAY 21. Jake, Denise and Lucy watch as Eben and
 Stella suit up to head outside --

DENISE
 What kind of shape can he be in?

LUCY
 Maybe he should stay there; we can
 hold out here if he's our lookout.

STELLA
 He's starving, Lucy -- while the
 streets are clear now, we don't have
 any choice --

LUCY
 Don't we?

Denise silences Lucy with a glare. Jake hands Stella a can of
 Ensure as Eben takes one of the walkie-talkies --

JAKE
 This'll help him get back -- *

EBEN
 You'll be okay here, Jake? *

Jake nods solemnly, a silent promise to his brother than he's
 up to the job. Eben shoots a look to Lucy as he prepares to
 go, firmly resolved -- *

EBEN (cont'd) *
 We're not losing anyone else.

149 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 149

Eben and Stella check the coast -- run across the street into an alley and catch their breath --

A WIND FROM SOMEWHERE -- a CREAK -- are they being watched? They hesitate, look to each other -- they have no other choice. Furiously they bolt toward Billy's house --

150-153 OMITTED 150-153

154 INT. KITKA HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT 154

Searching through the house, Stella WHISPERS Eben into the bedroom where furniture has been thrown against the wall --

STELLA
 Billy's wife and daughters -- they haven't been touched --

AN EERILY TRANQUIL WOMAN, IN HER 40s, SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR BESIDE HER TEENAGE DAUGHTERS, THEIR BODIES TOSSED ASIDE --

Eben senses something's not right, kneels beside the bodies --

Where he sees BULLET HOLES at the base of the women's necks.

EBEN
 Someone -- SHOT them.

It's the worst thing Eben could see right now -- a family killed, betrayed as they slept. As he tries to bear up --

BEHIND THE HURLED FURNITURE, BILLY'S VOICE CREAKS OUT WEAKLY:

BILLY
 I did --

Stella and Eben work to pull the furniture away, revealing Billy, dazed and guilty. Stella grabs the can of Ensure and kneels beside him --

STELLA
 Drink this.

EBEN
 (as he does)
 Billy -- your family -- ?

BILLY
 (painful nod)
 -- didn't want them to die like the
 others --

Stella closes her eyes in grief as a shocked Eben absorbs it --

BILLY (cont'd)
 -- tried to shoot myself, too -- but
 the fucking gun jammed -- they came
 when they heard the shots, I hid here
 and got trapped --
 (crying now)
 -- shouldn't have signalled to you,
 just couldn't stand being alone --

Without warning, EBEN WHACKS BILLY INTO THE WALL, rage boiling
 over --

STELLA
 (in shock)
 Eben -- !

He lifts Billy up and BACKHANDS HIM AGAIN, until Stella holds
 him back. Eben's fighting not to be so loud as to attract the
 enemy and yet unable to stop himself --

EBEN
 You had a family! A family! You
 don't EVER hurt them, you do whatever
 it fucking takes to --

Eben loses his breath in his fury, as Billy cries silently,
 knowing his guilt. Eben shakes his head, not knowing what to
 do with Billy -- until finally, he gruffly extends a hand --

EBEN (cont'd)
 When the sun comes up -- you can tell
 it to a judge --

EBEN -- lifts an unsteady Billy to his feet, but Billy
 STUMBLES back, unable to keep his balance --

EBEN (cont'd)
 You haven't used your legs in two
 weeks. You'll need to work up to it.
 (a beat)
 It could take us days to get back to
 the station if they're out in the
 streets again --

BILLY
 (truly lost)
 Why would we go there -- ?

EBEN
 Jake's there with Denise and Lucy.
 We'll reconnect when we can, then move
 to the Utilidor. There's a sewage
 pipe outside, we can get into the
 plant without them seeing --

Eben takes a breath and lifts Billy back up, determined --

EBEN (cont'd)
 First let's get you able to walk --

155 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 155

TITLE: DAY 23. Wind HOWLS, driving snow like sand -- Eben
 and Stella support Billy as they sidle toward the station.

156 OMITTED 156

157 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 157

Eben warily enters, expecting anything --

EBEN
 Oh God --

STELLA
 What?

EBEN'S POV: THE STATION IS EMPTY.

Eben bolts the rest of the way in, searching. Stella and
 Billy look about, fighting back terror. Stella picks up the
 other walkie-talkie, abandoned on the floor --

STELLA (cont'd)
 (needs hope so badly)
 Maybe they tried for the Utilidor --

Eben nods, summons up energy to head outside again --

EBEN
 We'll check every house on the way --

They head out, reaching into their hearts for strength --

158-161 OMITTED 158-161

161A EXT. JAYKO HOUSE - NIGHT 161A *

TITLE: DAY 26. Zurial and Archibald circle this house hungrily, SCRATCHING AT THE WINDOWS --

161B INT. COLLETTA HOUSE - NIGHT 161B

From behind the curtains in this now-ransacked and bloodstained home, Eben watches as --

161C EXT. JAYKO HOUSE - NIGHT 161C *

EBEN'S POV -- Paul Jayko, one of the twin sewage workers, bolts from his house in desperation, driven mad by the taunting of Zurial and Archibald -- *

Paul runs through the snow for just one horrific moment as MARLOW swoops down from a roof, plummeting THE SCREAMING PAUL into a snowdrift -- *

Zurial and Archibald careen after him, ready to feed, only to see that Marlow has beaten them to it --

ARCHIBALD
(territorial snarl)

Marlow rears up, face wet with blood, willing to tolerate no challenge to his kill -- *

MARLOW
(feral threat)

He doesn't have to say it twice. Archibald and Zurial back off, watching obediently as Marlow descends again to feed on Paul Jayko -- *

161D-162 OMITTED 161D-162 *

163 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT 163 *

TITLE: DAY 29. Drained, pallid, but forcing themselves onward, Eben, Stella and Billy crawl inch by inch, WHISPERING:

BILLY
-- we've been pushing all week and only made it a few blocks --

STELLA
-- not even in a straight line --

EBEN
-- we don't have much further to go --

They tense at the KEENING WAIL of a vampire nearby -- who is the next prey?

164 OMITTED 164

165 INT. ROBBINS HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT 165

Zurial stalks through the house, KEENING. INTERCUT WITH --

166 INT. ROBBINS HOUSE - CLOSET - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS 166

Crammed into the closet for the hot water heater are Frank and Michelle Robbins and their kids Larry and Gail. They quail, hearing ZURIAL'S FOOTSTEPS, HIS UNEARTHLY KEENING --

After a horrible moment, the footsteps fade away, the keening ends -- Larry sighs, hoping they are safe --

ZURIAL -- in the hallway, turns suddenly -- and sees the CLOUD OF LARRY'S BREATH COMING FROM THE CLOSET --

167 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT 167

SCREAMS PULL Eben, Stella and Billy to the edge of the house to see --

167A EXT. ROBBINS HOUSE - NIGHT 167A

EBEN'S POV -- GAIL fills the frame, careening from the house SCREAMING -- *

Far in the b.g., we see what Gail is running from: the destruction of her family. Zurial drops the remains of the boy Larry (his mother Michelle's now dead inside), as Larry's father Frank throws himself at Zurial in a desperate attempt to save his family. Zurial clutches Frank by the throat with one hand and begins SEVERING FRANK one limb at a time -- *

But mostly what we see is GAIL -- because she's RUNNING STRAIGHT TOWARD THE CRAWLSPACE WHERE EBEN IS HIDING -- *

168 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 168

Stella reaches out to embrace Gail, clamping a hand over her mouth to stop her crying --

EBEN'S POV -- It's too late -- Zurial looks up from his attack on Frank, narrowing his gaze TO FIND THE SOURCE OF GAIL'S CRYING -- looking right into the eyes of Eben, Stella and Billy. He KEENS hungrily at the sight of them -- *

EBEN -- shoots an order to Billy --

EBEN

I'm giving you a chance to help save
someone --

(then to Stella)

Get her away, we'll cover you --

- 169 EXT. ROBBINS HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 169
Eben rolls out with Billy before Stella can argue -- raising his axe and tearing with Billy around the side of the house --
Face bloody, Zurial follows Eben and Billy around the house --
- 170 EXT. CRAWLSPACE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 170
Stella and Gail scramble out, searching furiously for safety --
- 171 INT. ROBBINS HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 171 *
Eben and Billy run inside the back door, past Michelle's corpse on the floor -- *
But Zurial is there before they know it -- he grabs Eben, and the axe CLATTERS to the floor. Billy freaks and runs out -- *
Eben's shocked by the desertion as Zurial's jaws open wide for the attack -- *
- 172 OMITTED 172 *
- 173 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS 173 *
Stella and Gail hesitate by a trio of ABANDONED CARS as they reach a corner -- FOOTSTEPS NEARING THEM -- Stella looks about wildly in search of safety --
- 174 INT. ROBBINS HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT - RESUME 174 *
Eben flails an arm toward the kitchen counter, finds a CARVING KNIFE and slashes it across Zurial's face before the vampire can attack. Zurial reels with an eerie KEENING SCREAM, his black blood spurting across his eyes -- *
Eben reaches for the axe and scrambles away as Zurial clutches his face in pain -- *
- 175-176 OMITTED 175-176
- 177 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT 177
Seemingly desolate, on the edge of town --
- 178-179 OMITTED 178-179

180 INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT

180

Inside the mouth of a sewage pipe, Eben edges forward. A WHIRRING MECHANICAL NOISE ECHOES through the pipe, shadows trace their way across him as he moves, CREAKS JUMP UP from here and there -- does he dare to take another step? What other choice does he have?

He creeps ahead another step -- holding his breath as the pipe CREAKS -- he's nearly made it to sanctuary when he sees the SOURCE OF THE HUMMING. The whirling, razor-edged shafts of the colossal shredder are almost beneath him, he'll have to jump over them to safety. He leaps forward --

And as soon as he lands, without warning, Lucy, Jake and Denise emerge from hiding, ready to shove him into the blades! Jake pulls them back just in time --

JAKE

Eben!

DENISE

We nearly killed you -- !

Eben hugs Jake closely, looks at the three of them -- last survivors at the Alamo. All are pale, desperately needing a shower and about a week of sleep -- looking as desperate as the vampires.

EBEN

Where's Stella? Gail Robbins?

They all look back sadly -- they have no answer --

EBEN (cont'd)

Oh God -- they're still out there -- !

OFF Eben, in sudden cold sweat, steeling himself for the worst threat, the possibility that Stella might not make it --

180A EXT. PUMP HOUSE, UTILIDOR - NIGHT

180A

A gaunt, desperate Billy stands at the sewage pipe which the Jayko twins worked, twisting the hatch. Once it's open, he slides into the sewage pipe and closes the hatch after him --

Not seeing that in the distance, Arvin tracks him steadily --

180B INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

180B

Followed by the others, Eben moves to the window, searching outside for Stella, pulling out his WALKIE-TALKIE --

EBEN
 (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)
 Stella -- ! Come in, Stella, where
 are you -- ?

180C INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT 180C

Billy crawls from the pipe, sees the spinning blades of the shredder. Taking a deep breath, he jumps over the blades and tumbles into the main room, timid and drained --

BILLY
 Hello -- ? Anyone -- ?

GLINTING in the empty sewage pipe behind him, ARVIN'S VAMPIRE-BLACK EYES --

180D INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 180D

Eben scans the town for any sign of hope, when --

BILLY (O.S.)
AAAAAAAAAaaaaaaaaaa -- !!

Eben and the other survivors trade glances -- knowing they'll need all of them to help if they've been compromised --

180E INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT 180E

Arvin feeds on a twitching, still living Billy --

Eben tears in, brandishing his axe -- he takes a crushing swing at Arvin just as Arvin turns, and the axe embeds itself in Arvin's arm --

Lucy SCREAMS as Arvin hurls the axe away and then dives toward Eben, seething in pain and anger, and turns on Denise -- *

Lucy, Denise and Jake grab Arvin's arms and try to haul him back toward the Muffin Monster -- but Arvin shrugs them off easily -- *

Until Eben, using the distraction, HURTLES himself squarely into Arvin -- KNOCKING ARVIN TOWARD THE WHIRLING SHAFTS OF THE SHREDDER --

It's not quite enough to knock him in -- Arvin catches himself and SNARLS FERALLY at Eben, ready to charge him. Billy, on the verge of death, sees Eben with nowhere to run -- *

BILLY
 (desperately)
 No -- *

Summoning every ounce of adrenalin he has left, Billy RAMS *
Arvin the rest of the way in --

Arvin's pulled through the shafts, unable to resist, buffeted
into the depths of the Muffin Monster to his destruction --

Even as Billy nearly falls in the shredder himself -- he HOWLS
as the blades of the shredder clip off his HAND -- !

Denise SCREAMS, Lucy fights hysteria as Billy reels to the
floor, hiding his bloody stump of an arm --

Eben lands at his side, grateful for Billy's help even as he
mourns what it has cost Billy --

EBEN
Billy --

BILLY
(hissed)
-- I'm dead, Eben --

Billy writhes on the floor, his eyes TURNING VAMPIRE-BLACK.
Eben reaches for his axe, summoning strength, knowing what he
has to do --

Billy involuntarily KEENS as he sees the axe raise, a SUDDEN
DEAFENING WAIL THAT CUTS TO THE HEART --

180F EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 180F

Marlow, stalking through the town with a quartet of vampires,
turns at the distant sound of BILLY'S KEENING. At his side, a
wounded Zurial stands, his face SCARRED but intact. Their *
nostrils flare as they hear Billy; there must still prey to be
squeezed from this town --

Narrowing his eyes, Marlow searches down the street --

180G EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS - MARLOW'S POV 180G

The desolate sewage plant waits as BILLY'S KEENING DIES AWAY --

180H EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - RESUME 180H

Marlow gestures to his pack; the four vampires plunge ahead --

180I EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 180I

The four vampires BASH AT the pump house door, unable to break
the steel and concrete --

180J INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS

180J

Eben lifts up his axe and ruefully wipes away Billy's blood -- when the survivors hear the POUNDING ECHOING from above. Denise, Jake and Lucy work to resist panic, shivering and looking to Eben for any small hope. Without Stella at his side, he gives them as much as he can give --

EBEN

We'll wait it out.
(and, seething)
We'll have to.

181 INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

181

Eben paces, losing it -- the hours without Stella are taking a harsh toll. HE BLASTS HIS INHALER, CLICKS THE WALKIE-TALKIE --

EBEN

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)
Stella, where are you -- ?
(waits, waits)
Stella, we're okay, come in --

Nothing but silence. He shudders with rage and helplessness --

Denise, Lucy and Jake are beyond tired; their lips are parched, eyes bloodshot, clothes hanging like dead skin. Denise walks down the corridor carrying a bottle of vodka, a box of chocolates and a jar of vitamins -- she presents them to the others with the quiet humor of the totally drained --

*

DENISE

Found these behind the first aid kit:
three of the four basic food groups.
Let's mark the occasion. One day till
sunrise.

JAKE

(eyeing the vodka)
Am I too young for this?

*

DENISE

(uncorking it)
Nobody's too young in this town.

Lucy nibbles on a chocolate, her fears welling up again --

LUCY

What if the sun doesn't come up? What
if there's a storm?

Eben turns, stunned at the idea -- fighting for hope --

EBEN

-- let's survive today. And then
we'll survive tomorrow. Jake --

*

Eben gestures for Jake to join him privately --

*

EBEN (cont'd)

I just wanted to make sure you knew --
good job getting everyone here.

*

*

*

Jake takes in the praise -- right now it's as valuable as
food. And it's clear they don't have many chances left to say
the things we all should say to each other --

*

*

*

SUDDENLY THE WALKIE-TALKIE ON EBEN'S BELT CRACKLES TO LIFE --

STELLA (O.S.)

Eben -- come in, Eben -- over --

Her voice is thin, whispered, tired -- but it's never been
more welcome to Eben as he CLICKS ON HIS WALKIE-TALKIE --

EBEN

Stella -- !

STELLA (O.S.)

-- whisper -- they've been walking
around, but I had to hear your voice --
I've got Gail with me --

EBEN

Where are you?

182 EXT. UNDER PARKED CAR - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS

182

Stella and Gail, blue with cold, huddle together UNDER A
PARKED CHEVY, with snow packed up around the sides to form a
makeshift igloo. Stella WHISPERS INTO THE WALKIE-TALKIE --

STELLA

Under Paul Jayko's Chevy --

*

GAIL

-- so cold --

Stella looks to Gail in concern -- the little girl fighting to
keep her teeth from chattering. Stella hugs Gail even tighter
to her, pouring every bit of nurturing she has in her soul
into keeping his girl safe --

*

*

*

*

183-184 OMITTED

183-184

185 EXT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 185

The others crowd a newly-energized Eben, staring outside --

EBEN
(ON WALKIE-TALKIE)
The sun comes up tomorrow -- you and
I'll see it together --

A beat as Eben wracks his brain for something to inspire her --

EBEN (cont'd)
-- remember that ridge? Where we had
our first date? We'll make it back
there, baby -- I promise --

He keeps searching -- he knows he needs to give her more than *
just memories to keep her going -- but what? Jake spots the *
stranded Chevy, points it out to Eben --

JAKE
There's the car!

DENISE
(eyes widening)
Too many of them -- they'd kill us way
before we'd reach her --

186 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - EBEN'S POV 186

From the height of the storage tank, the desolate town is laid bare under the stars. On the main drag, some five blocks away from the Utilidor, an abandoned Chevy waits in the snow --

AND A BLOCK CLOSER, MARLOW AND FIVE OTHER VAMPIRES ARE GATHERING IN THE STREET --

EBEN (O.S.)
They're a block away, baby -- we need
to cut off before they hear you --

187 EXT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT - RESUME 187

Eben clutches the WALKIE-TALKIE like a lifeline --

EBEN
-- I'll call you when it's safe --

And he adds, for the first time in a long while --

EBEN (cont'd)
I love you --

A pause -- did Stella hear? Finally, faintly -- *

STELLA (O.S.)
I'm sorry, baby -- shouldn't ever have left you -- *

SHE CLICKS OFF -- as Eben steels himself, determining that he will do anything but let her down --

188-189 OMITTED 188-189

190 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 190 *

TITLE: DAY 30. The remaining vampires -- eleven grim jackals -- listen as Marlow SPEAKS IN HIS ARCANES LANGUAGE -- *

MARLOW
(clear, vicious orders)

The other vampires careen away to do Marlow's bidding --

191 EXT. UNDER PARKED CAR - NIGHT 191

Stella's WALKIE-TALKIE CRACKLES IN, EBEN'S VOICE WHISPERING AT ITS LOWEST AND MOST INTIMATE VOLUME --

EBEN (O.S.)
Stella -- CLICK TWICE to let me know you're all right.

Stella's fighting for strength, she and Gail both suffering from the chills, their skin turning brittle and blue. She CLICKS the walkie-talkie ONCE -- then TWICE --

EBEN (O.S.) (cont'd)
They're up to something, can't tell what -- just run like hell if I call --

Stella CLICKS TWICE to acknowledge him --

Eben takes a breath, determined to do something as rough for him as surviving in the cold is for Stella --

EBEN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Baby -- I never wanted to lose you. I just couldn't see how to --
(stepping up to the plate)
Listen. We get through this -- when we DO get through this --
(the step he couldn't take)
-- you'll have a family --

Stella closes her eyes, this precious moment warring with desperation -- it would be so easy to go to sleep forever --

EBEN (O.S.) (cont'd)
I'll come through for you, just stay
with me --

*
*

Stella clutches Gail closer to her -- hearing Eben speak like this means so very much to her --

192 INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 192

Eben listens, hears TWO CLICKS in answer -- and prays --

193 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 193

A MYSTERIOUS BLACKNESS OOZES into the streets everywhere --

194 INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 194

Denise stares out the window --

DENISE
The streets are filling up with
something black --

Eben pushes past her, squinting into the distance, paling --

EBEN
They've broken into the pipeline --

195 OMITTED 195

196 EXT. BARROW - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 196 *

From the Utilidor, we survey the decimated town of Barrow. At the town's far end, Marlow grimly savors the moment as he strikes a match -- and drops the lit match into the street -- which IGNITES IN OILY FLAME. *

197 INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 197

Eben keeps staring, putting it all together in dread --

EBEN
They planned this all along --
burning down the town.

DENISE
Everything we've built. Nobody'll
know what happened. They'll think it
was some horrible accident.

LUCY
 Next year they'll take out Point Hope.
 Or Wainwright.

*
 *
 *

JAKE
 This building's strong. Can't we ride
 it out here?

EBEN
 Maybe.
 (a beat)
 But that Chevy Stella's under will go
 off like a bomb.

Lucy sinks back in shock, as Eben reels --

198 EXT. ROGERS AVENUE - NIGHT - SHORTLY LATER 198

The fire spreads through Barrow like lava from hell -- houses
 IGNITE, an SUV parked on the street BURNS AWAY --

TWO BARROWITES, hidden up till now, run out from a blazing
 house, SCREAMING, their clothes singed, running toward the
 Utilidor for their last chance at safety --

*

When a PACK OF VAMPIRES lunges from the roof of a building,
 landing on the survivors and feeding --

199 EXT. UNDER PARKED CAR - NIGHT 199

Gail, wrapped inside Stella's parka, looks to her --

GAIL
 What happens when you die?

*
 *

STELLA
 We're not gonna die, Gail, we just
 have to wait a little longer --

*
 *
 *

GAIL
 (not so sure)
 It feels warmer --

*

STELLA
 (concerned)
 Stay awake, honey --

200 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 200

Near the Utilidor, Marlow and his pack watch in satisfaction
 as the inferno steadily approaches, a few blocks away. The
 smoke CURLS AND BILLOWS forward through the streets --

201 OMITTED 201
 202 INT. STORAGE TANK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 202 *

Eben watches, sweating, as the fire creeps through the town --

EBEN

If she runs, the bastards get her --
 if she stays put, she'll burn --

Jake, pale and honest, stands at his side --

JAKE

-- you try to reach her, won't they go
 after all of us?

Eben leans against the door in pain -- knowing he can't
 sacrifice everyone else, but unable to give up Stella --

Eben breathes harder and harder -- thoughts churning --

EBEN

Oh God --
 (looks about)
 Oh dear God --

PUSH IN on Eben's face -- he sees what to do, but he's
 overwhelmed by the gravity of the step he's about to take --

Then he bolts for the stairs as Jake watches, baffled --

203-204 OMITTED 203-204

205 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT 205

The oozing, raging inferno creeps closer to the Chevy where
 Stella and Gail wait --

206 INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT 206

Carrying a first aid kit, Eben fishes out a syringe -- kneels
 beside Billy's corpse -- and sticks the syringe in its arm.
 He pulls the stopper, FILLS THE SYRINGE WITH BLOOD --

Jake and the others arrive just in time to see Eben wince as
 he INJECTS THE BLOOD-FILLED SYRINGE INTO HIS OWN ARM. Lucy
 GASPS as the empty syringe falls to the floor --

EBEN

While they're watching me, get on the
 walkie-talkie, tell Stella and Gail to
 run for it --

Eben collapses as though he's starting withdrawal from drugs --

JAKE
(hoarsely)
What did you do -- ?!

LUCY
You can't -- !

EBEN
(through his teeth)
Carter and Billy changed -- they were
only bitten. They managed to hold
onto who they were for a while --

JAKE DENISE *
It's someone else's blood -- -- are you crazy -- ? *

LUCY
(over, at a total loss)
It's -- you -- !

Lucy turns, unable to watch what's happening to Eben --

EBEN
(shouting them down)
We can't fight them off -- the way we
are --

Sweat cascades across Eben's brow as he shudders, his breath *
thickening -- for a moment it looks like an asthma attack. *
Jake digs in Eben's pocket, hands Eben the inhaler -- *

JAKE *
Here -- ! *

But within moments, Eben's breath becomes fuller, deeper -- he *
takes the inhaler and stares at it in amazement -- *

EBEN *
-- don't need it -- ! *

He drops the inhaler as sweat beads across his face, places a *
hand on Jake's shoulder, it's getting harder to talk -- *

EBEN (cont'd) *
-- thanks -- little brother -- take *
care of Stella -- *

Then he reels back as another wave of agony shatters through *
him; DENISE GASPS AS EBEN'S PUPILS WIDEN, LARGER AND BLACKER -- *

DENISE
 -- he's one of them --

*

Eben's lips pull back in a rictus of pain -- his gums have started to recede, making his teeth look unsettlingly feral --

LUCY
 -- how do we know he won't attack US?

*

DENISE
 (reluctant fear)
 Maybe we should stop him now --

JAKE
 SHUT UP -- SHUT UP -- YOU TOUCH HIM
 AND YOU CAN KILL ME, TOO -- !

OFF Eben, not sure he can endure the pain --

207 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT 207

Marlow looks to the sky -- behind the black smoke, it looks just a shade brighter.

208 EXT. UNDER PARKED CAR - NIGHT 208

Stella carves a peephole in the snow -- and through it RUSHES OILY BLACK SMOKE. She and Gail start to choke --

209 INT. MUFFIN MONSTER - NIGHT 209

A pallid Eben, his voice now DEATHLY HOARSE, looks up to Jake, Gail, Lucy and Denise --

EBEN
 I can smell your blood.

He rises, struggling with temptation, warning them away with his eyes --

As he heads for the corridor that leads to the outside --

DENISE
 You can't beat them all, Eben --

*

Eben knows it. Jake reads Eben's plan in his eyes --

*

JAKE
 He's just holding them till Stella and Gail can make it inside --

*

*

*

EBEN
 (a beat; grimly)
 If I can.

*
 *
 *

210 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT 210

Smoke floods the air -- down the road, the town is in full blaze. Suddenly the door KICKS OPEN -- and Eben emerges, fighting for balance, unaccustomed to his new senses, squinting through the smoke, face torn with pain and mission --

Like the vampires, Eben's breath does not billow in the cold, but he's wrapped up in winter gear so that no one notices --

Eben works for his bearings -- then trudges directly toward Marlow, the CRUNCH of his steps in the ice making Marlow turn. *
 Marlow recognizes Eben, HISSING vindictively -- *

MARLOW
 The one who fights.

Eben nods -- the angry bond between himself and Marlow clear. He keeps walking steadily toward Marlow. The other vampires circle, but Marlow cautions them back with a wave of his arm -- he doesn't need, doesn't want any help for dealing with Eben. No, this will be a pleasure.

Eben lurches toward the other vampires for a moment -- they watch, uncertain what the hell he has in mind --

Then he resumes trudging toward Marlow, as Marlow shakes his head, nearly pitying how far gone Eben appears to be --

211 INT. PUMP HOUSE, UTILIDOR - NIGHT 211

JAKE FIRES UP THE WALKIE-TALKIE --

JAKE
 Stella, it's Jake -- get out of there
 now, run, run -- !

212 EXT. UNDER PARKED CAR - NIGHT 212

Stella and Gail don't need to be told twice -- they push their way through their smoky coffin toward the outside --

213 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 213

-- seeing the oily miasma pouring toward them, Stella and Gail stumble out, yearning for safety, legs shaky from a day's worth of cold and inaction --

214 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT

214

Eben pushes forward, knowing any moment might be his last --

Finally he's nearly two yards away from Marlow -- and suddenly he reaches for Marlow, trying to grab at him with surprising speed. But Marlow BACKHANDS HIM INTO THE ICE --

Eben struggles to his feet, throws a fist at Marlow -- who catches the fist and throws Eben back --

Eben lunges again for Marlow, knocking him down for a moment --

Then Marlow, SNARLING, HURLS HIMSELF at Eben, ripping at him again and again, tearing his parka loose, battering his face and body mercilessly --

Eben desperately crawls, trying to get his feet under him --

Until Marlow pulls him by his hair and WHIPS him bitterly, face up, against the ice --

Eben GASPS for breath, fighting to suck in some strength -- his mouth is bloody, and the blood makes the ice slicker as they fight --

Zurial and the other vampires watch intently -- impressed by Eben's ability to survive against Marlow even this long --

STELLA -- stops with Gail, seeing through the smoke that in the crowd ahead, her husband is fighting for all their lives --

MARLOW -- REACHES DOWN AND ENCIRCLES EBEN'S LEFT HAND IN HIS CLAWLIKE FINGERS -- HE SQUEEZES AND SQUEEZES, RELENTLESSLY, UNTIL WE HEAR THE SNAPPING OF BONES --

Eben fights not to feel the pain, but HIS VISION IS BLURRING, it's hard to see how much longer he can last --

He glances to the night sky above --

215 EXT. SKIES - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

215

IS IT A FEW DEGREES LIGHTER THAN IT SEEMED A MOMENT AGO?

216 EXT. UTILIDOR - NIGHT

216

Zurial and the other vampires look to the sky warily, tensing at the knowledge that the night is almost gone -- realizing they face a decision --

Marlow circles Eben, gloating in triumph --

Eben summons up his strength and butts his head into Marlow, knocking him onto the ice --

Insulted, Marlow SPITS FERALLY and regains his haunches, like a wolf who will not give up his prey --

Eben wobbles for a moment on the ice, but determines to keep the momentum on his side. With brutal drive he bolts toward Marlow, his left arm hanging limply with its fingers now broken, ready to strike another blow --

AT THE PUMP HOUSE DOOR -- Jake, Denise and Lucy watch in dread, helpless if Eben fails --

ON THE ICE -- the permafrost CRACKS as Marlow dodges Eben and WHACKS him into the unforgiving ground again and again. It's a savage onslaught that makes Eben's very skull seem to SHAKE from the impact --

Eben knows he needs a moment to recoup -- he tries to crawl away to gain a breather --

But Marlow drags him back mercilessly as the smoke whirls around them, Eben's face lacerating against the ice --

Then he grabs Eben's throat with one hand, lifting him up from the frozen ground with a sadistic smile --

Marlow hurls Eben to the ground -- KICKS HIS FACE VICIOUSLY, and then towers over Eben --

FROM THE TOWN -- a handful of tattered, drained survivors, driven north by the smoke and fire, emerge to watch in awe, struggling to understand what is happening -- the gaunt veterans of thirty days of night, mute witnesses to this battle that will decide their fates, JOINING A TRANSFIXED STELLA AND GAIL --

ON THE ICE -- Eben struggles to remain conscious, searching about until he sees --

STELLA -- her heart breaking, her eyes filled with both HOPE AND GRIEF. He takes it all in --

Marlow follows Eben's gaze, seeing Stella as well. With a cruel smile, he drops Eben, stalking toward Stella, ready to rob Eben of his companion even as Eben ruined Marlow's toy --

Eben, seeing Marlow heading for Stella, WRENCHES HIMSELF OFF THE ICE and hurls himself at Marlow --

They tumble together, a small chaos of fury and bloodlust -- as Marlow emerges on top, ready to finish Eben off --

Marlow bares his fangs -- this last kill will be so very satisfying --

Eben's eyes are nearly swollen shut -- his face is a mass of welts and agony --

BUT THEN EBEN FORCES HIS EYES WIDE, STARING UP AT HIS ENEMY --
AND HIS DEATH-BLACK PUPILS MATCH THOSE OF MARLOW --

Marlow hesitates for a nanosecond, confused --

Eben, facing his last, does the thing he didn't think he could *
do -- he reaches into his depths and pulls up the ferocity and *
strength of a wildcat --

Reaching up, he takes hold of Marlow's jaw with his wounded hand, and in a berserker rage, SLAMS HIS GOOD HAND ALL THE WAY INTO MARLOW'S MOUTH --

The vampires gape in AWE AT THE SOUND OF RIPPING FLESH --

And MARLOW'S HEAD lands on the ice in a rush of red pain and shock, still not realizing he's lost. His eyes close -- he is gone.

Eben stares, blinking, astonished by it all, unable to *
comprehend for a moment that he's won. Slowly he pulls
himself to his knees --

Zurial looks grimly to the sky -- two other vampires take a step back, retreating as their night runs out --

The survivors at the pump house BREATHE IN DEEPLY, unable to contain their swelling hope --

STELLA -- however, sees there's something far worse to learn yet -- she runs to Eben, kneeling beside him on the ice --

STELLA

-- what did you do to yourself?

EBEN

(a solemn beat)

What I had to.

She embraces him desperately -- overwhelmed by his sacrifice. He fights his way to his feet, looking at Marlow's blood on his hands. He needs it -- the blood would taste so very good. But he can't bring himself to go there --

Clenching his jaw, he looks around -- THE VAMPIRES ARE ENTIRELY GONE --

EBEN (cont'd)
Should I go after them?

STELLA
They won't come back.

Gail looks about, lost and overwhelmed --

Seeing Gail, Eben looks to Stella in silent, sacred agreement.
Stella takes Eben's meaning and nods, kneeling to Gail --

STELLA (cont'd)
Come here, sweetheart --

Stella folds a grateful Gail in her arms, then reaches out to include Jake as well -- her new family.

JAKE
It's almost dawn. We made it.

Stella looks up to the skies, apprehensive --

STELLA
Eben -- the dawn --

217 EXT. SKIES - NEAR DAWN - CONTINUOUS 217

ABOVE THE SMOKE, THE HEAVENS ARE NO LONGER BLACK. THE SKY IS NOW RICH BLUE, THE COLOR OF ONCOMING DAY --

218 EXT. UTILIDOR - NEAR DAWN - CONTINUOUS 218

Eben nods; he understands full well what's coming with the dawn. Stella holds onto Gail and Jake for balance, weak as she realizes the full extent of Eben's transformation --

Denise turns to the survivors --

DENISE
The firehouse -- let's start the hydrants, see what we can save --

Lucy and Jake join the other Barrowites, moving to recapture their town. Stella rises from Gail's side to caress Eben's cheek, her face wet with tears --

STELLA
You could hide -- we could find blood for you --

EBEN
(honestly, no self-pity)
Stella.

(MORE)

EBEN (cont'd)
 It's getting hard to fight -- I'm
 forgetting everything but the pain.
 There's just one place for me to go --

He turns, wishing to spare Stella what is to come --

STELLA
 I'm coming -- I won't run again --

OFF Eben, heartened by knowing Stella's standing by him --

219 EXT. SUMMIT - DAWN

219

In the distance, the smoke curls up slowly now from Barrow -- the flames have subsided. Much of the town is charred, but there is still a town worth reclaiming.

Eben and Stella sit together as the sun edges over the distant icy horizon. Eben, his skin a landscape of agony, shivers while Stella grasps his hands with both hands --

EBEN
 -- I sent Billy to take you to the
 airport -- knew he wouldn't make it --
 wanted you to stay --

A grateful nod from Stella; she always suspected it. She works to contain her fears as he winces, not sure he can endure the pain any longer --

EBEN (cont'd)
 Baby --

STELLA
 I'm here. I'm here with you.

EBEN
 Listen -- listen to me --

STELLA
 (time slipping away)
 Yes -- I'm here, I'm listening --

EBEN
 I could live forever -- but I don't
 want to breathe another second -- if I
 can't remember what it feels like to
 love you --

Fighting back tears because they can't risk missing a moment together, their eyes lock. Everything they've ever said to each other, everything they've never said and should have, it all passes between them --

THE SUN STARES DOWN AT THEM, BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY, SEARING THEM WITH LETHAL RADIANCE. CAMERA CIRCLES AROUND THEM, as Eben winces, gasps in pain --

Stella throws her arms around him for dear life --

Eben's skin finishes CHARRING TO BLACK as Stella holds him -- within moments he is dead.

CLOSE ON STELLA, THE SUN REFLECTED IN HER EYES AS HER HEART BREAKS FOR EBEN AND HIS SACRIFICE. PULL CLOSER AND CLOSER ON STELLA UNTIL --

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END