

Ice Hunt Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Amanda Reynolds is mapping a large ice berg using the Deep Eye sonar system when she discovers an abandoned ice island and a world war two era submarine from Russia docked within. Deeper scans reveal bodies and a sudden blurred movement on the screen indicates life of some kind. The American research vessel Polar Sentinel has discovered the Russian Ice Station Grendel. Inside, they find research that has been buried in the ice since the Second World War. The elaborate ice station has multiple levels, and a series of ice tunnels that run throughout the massive berg. The laboratory is immediately closed off with the discovery of human research subjects suspended in liquid, and few are told of its existence. The scientists explore the station, and then go into the tunnels they call the crawlspace to take ice samples in an effort to date the berg itself. There the ice station reveals its next secret.

Matthew Pike is the Fish and Game warden. When he witnesses a plane crash in the Alaskan wilderness, he grabs his horse Mariah, and goes to lend aid. The pilot is a friend, and is dead. His passenger introduces himself as reporter, Craig Teague. A second plane circles and begins dropping soldiers strapped to all weather motorcycles. Matt knows they are in trouble. He puts Craig on Mariah and heads for his camp. They don't get far before the wreck explodes and Matt knows they are covering their tracks. He sends Mariah ahead with Craig and stays behind to fight, managing to eliminate the two threats on the ground before he and Craig head for the only place Matt knows is near enough to help. His ex wife isn't at the cabin, but her father, John, greets him with a loaded shotgun. It's obvious he is yet to be forgiven. When Jennifer arrives, he pleads his case and soon after the second plane finds them again. In a frightening tale of cat and mouse, the Russians pit themselves against the Americans, each seeking to secure the research left behind at the lab.

The ice station has a few problems of its own as scientists discover and inadvertently thaw the hibernating 'walking whales' that the Russians referred to as Grendels. Hungry and angry that their ice nest has been invaded, they hunt and kill anyone they come across, but there are still more twists and turns. Would be reporter Craig Teague is actually CIA operative Delta One who is coordinating an all out offensive in an effort to secure the data that the Russians are seeking to reclaim. In an explosive finale, the original Russian researcher's son, Admiral Viktor Petkov arms a weapon designed to destabilize the entire polar ice cap and once armed, the weapon cannot be stopped. Could this mean the end of the world or will man's innate goodness find a way to prevail?



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter One: Blood Lure

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The elaborate ice station has multiple levels, and a series of ice tunnels that run throughout the massive berg. The laboratory is immediately closed off with the discovery of human research subjects suspended in liquid, and few are told of its existence. The scientists explore the station, and then go into the tunnels they call the crawlspace to take ice samples in an effort to date the berg itself. There the ice station reveals its next secret. Matthew Pike, a fish and game officer, is about to make dinner when he hears the engine of a plane. A single engine Cessna sputters over the ridge and soon after he hears the plane go down. Matt saddles his horse and takes a first aid kit.

Viktor Petkov watches as the submarine, Drakon gets ready to go under way. This is Captain Mikovsky's first command and he allows the Captain to show him around. Once in his stateroom, he places a call. Leopard answers and tells him the target is down. Viktor wants confirmation that there are no survivors.

Matt walks his horse, Mariah down to the crash site and once there, he discovers the pilot is a friend. He checks the rear seats and finds and frees one survivor with Mariah's help. Matt frees the man from the wreckage who introduces himself as Craig Teague. Craig tells him they were headed for Prudhoe Bay to refuel on their way to the Omega Drift Station as part of the SCICEX research group. Another plane shows up and Matt feels uneasy. With binoculars, he watches as two men are dispatched, dressed in white with rifles strapped to their backs. Matt sees the motorcycles with metal spikes secured to each man and feels a stab of dread. He tells Craig he hopes he can ride.

Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter One: Blood Lure Analysis

Matt is not having the best day. It begins with an encounter with a mother grizzly bear and her cub and while he manages to get away without having to shoot her or the cub,



he loses an entire container of bear lure in the process. It is a situation that researcher Carol Jeffries won't be overjoyed about. He is thinking about her reaction when he hears a plane with engine trouble. It goes down just over the ridge and Matt rides Mariah to the crash site to see if he can help and is stunned to recognize the pilot. Brent Cumming and his wife Cheryl had spent summers camping with Matt and his wife. He will be faced with telling his wife Cheryl that her husband Brent will not be coming home.

The problems don't end there. He finds one survivor, who introduces himself as a political reporter, but before Matt can have much of a conversation with him, another plane comes overhead. Using his binoculars, he sees men in winter camouflage with rifles strapped to their backs bail out. They are also strapped to motorcycles that are equipped for winter. He can tell that the trouble is only beginning, and that if he and Craig are to survive, they need to get out of the area immediately.

Viktor Petkov boards the Drakon and allows Captain Mikovsky to show him to his stateroom though Viktor knows this vessel inside and out. He places a call to ensure the recipient will make sure there are no survivors and on the other end of the phone, Leopard confirms the order without comment.



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Two: Cat and Mouse

Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Two: Cat and Mouse Summary

At the Omega Drift Station, Captain Perry takes a small group of men to a group of fifteen huts with ski-doo's and snow cats out front. None of the scientists who gathered there now were aware of the horror he and his men found at the heart of the ice station, and he had immediately quarantined and declared the area off limits. It still bothered him. Only Dr. Amanda Reynolds, who was with him at the time, was aware and she was also deeply shaken. The movement that had shown up on their Deep Eye sonar had not yet been discovered. Erik Gustof, a Canadian meteorologist, hurries them along with warnings of a coming storm.

Perry dismisses his men and greets Amanda. Her father, the Admiral is on the line to inform him that the news was released to Russia that the Ice Station had been found. Even the Secretary of the Navy had been recalled from a Middle Eastern Easter break junket and there was much activity and conversation surrounding something called 'Grendel'. Perry had only discovered that this was the name of the Ice Station earlier that morning.

Matt heads back to camp, walking Mariah. They hear the plane blow up as the men from the plane cover their tracks. He tells Bane to go to camp, and gives Mariah a swat to send her after him. Then he hides and waits but the men expect attack and parry. He crabs his way down an icy channel and when it tips over a ledge, hurries to the creek and then through it to a waterfall. Jamming his hand behind the water, he finds a space and pushes himself through, concentrating on the man headed for him. When he reaches a spot close enough to ensure accuracy, Matt fires, taking him by surprise but a Kevlar vest saves him. He is unable to elude the bear spray that Matt has however, and its strength puts the man on his knees, rendering him harmless. Matt hurries back to camp intent on packing up himself, the dogs and the reporter, and going to the only place he know will help.

After finding the tortured body of his brother Mikal, and putting him out of his misery, Stefan Yurgen follows the tracks left as Matt and Craig leave camp intent on vengeance. It is a two day hike and Matt prepares quickly. Stefan follows, tracking them easily until he walks through the trap set by Matt and the last bottle of blood lure breaks over his legs. The smell is so strong, Stefan vomits, but doesn't realize the extent of the danger he is in until the shapes come upon him in the gloom. Drawn by the smell of the lure, the Grizzlies make short work of Stefan. Relieved, Craig still can't believe Matt walked them through the Grizzlies, but Matt assures him that the real threat is yet to come. They are headed to the home of his ex wife.



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Two: Cat and Mouse Analysis

Captain Perry makes his way to the huts, and after releasing his men for a brief furlough, he greets Amanda warmly. Their feelings for each other have grown steadily throughout the trip but it is a well kept secret even from her father, the Admiral. The Admiral is on the phone and tells him that the Russians are aware that they have found the ice station. Now there is much activity and discussion surrounding something called Grendel. Perry wonders how the Russians being aware will affect them.

Matt puts Craig on Mariah and walks alongside so as not to tax her. He gets confirmation that they are in trouble when the plane blows up. Matt questions Craig about the story he is on that would attract so much attention that they would want to kill him. At first, Craig brushes it off, claiming his editor has it out for him because he slept with his niece, but Matt knows something else is going on. He keeps pumping and finally Craig admits that a marine biologist had sent a telegram that indication a significant find of some kind had been discovered that was linked to the ice station. Craig claimed he had been sent to assess whether or not the story was worthy of national interest.

Stefan found his brother Mikal, and put him out of his misery. He vows revenge, following Matt and Craig as the head across the frozen landscape. Matt walks them straight through the area he had been in that morning. He sets up his last container of blood lure and Stefan walks straight into it. The grizzlies have been gathering, attracted by Matt's earlier spill and now the extra blood lure brings them running. They make short work of Stefan, and even his gun doesn't slow them down. Matt hears the screams and is only saddened that a bear may have been hurt in the exchange. Craig is disturbed by the path that Matt chose through the grizzlies, and makes the mistaken assumption that they are now safe. Matt knows better. Their destination is the only place that has a satellite phone in the area - his ex-wife's place.



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Three: Trap Lines

Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Three: Trap Lines Summary

Jennifer Aratuk finishes checking her father's trap lines and is headed for the family cabin when she hears the gunshot. As an Alaskan Sheriff, Jennifer knows the kinds of dangers that can be encountered, and she goads her dog team into high gear. She barely makes the last leg of her trip, and is greeted with enthusiasm by Bane, recognizing him at the last moment. Her father, John, is standing in the doorway and tells her that he had already warned Matt that he wasn't welcome there. When Jennifer hears that Brent Cummings is dead and that it wasn't an accident, she softens, hurt by the news as Matt was, and lets him and Craig inside.

John stomps off to see to Mariah and the dogs without a word to Matt. When he returns a short time later, he announces that they are going to get more company. Matt looks out to see the same plane circling the cabin. A man leans out the door and fires a grenade launcher. Matt takes Jennifer to the floor to get her out of the line of fire, and grabbing her rifle, she suggests they leave. She heads for the plane at the dock, leaving Matt with the rifle to distract them. Matt manages to worry them enough to keep them from blowing up the plane before it takes off. He even manages to get a shot off that hits the windscreen of the other plane, but doesn't seem to slow them down. Now, their only hope is to make it to Prudhoe Bay, four hundred miles away.

Admiral Petkov gets a message under the Polar Ice Cap. The message was coded urgent and for his eyes only. In it, Colonel General Yergen Chenko, who is the directorate of the Federal Security Service in Russia, informs him that a Delta Force team has been deployed. By the virtue of this deployment, the rules of engagement are clear to both sides. Viktor is an expert in stratagems and deceptions. He looks at the nuclear symbol, a trifoil icon, on one of the six titanium cases in his stateroom. He plans to win.

Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Three: Trap Lines Analysis

Jennifer doesn't know what to think when she comes back from checking her father's trap lines and hears a gunshot. So many variables come into play. Their home is remote and isolated. As a Sheriff, she has seen firsthand the kind of people who sometimes end up in remote places, and her father has arthritis and doesn't move around too well. He would be a target. All these things go through her mind as she mashes her dogs into



a full speed run the rest of the way back. The dogs are more than willing, knowing they are close to home, and in her hurry she almost dumps her sled.

When she gets home, she finds the one scenario that hadn't run through her mind when she heard the shot. Her father is standing at the door with his rifle. A little ways away is her ex husband Matt, and her father telling him he warned him never to return. She convinces him to put the rifle away, and looks at Matt for an explanation, but seeing her has him tongue tied. He stands there mute as Craig explains how Matt rescued him from the plane after it crashed. Finally, Matt finds his voice and tells her that the pilot was Brent Cummings. That rattles Jennifer. Her first reaction is similar to Matt's first reaction. How will she tell his wife? John Aratuk sees to Mariah and Matt's dogs, one of which was a puppy when his daughter was still with Matt, and Jennifer leads them inside.

Craig uses the satellite phone and is told to make his way to Prudhoe Bay while Matt looks around the cabin he helped build, and sees the photos of his son. That is almost more than he can bear, but he bottles it up again when John comes back and announces more company. Matt looks outside and confirms his fears. It is the same plane that dropped the mercenaries who blew up Brent and his plane. As the plane gets closer, Matt can see the rocket launcher pointing out the door, and all he can think about is saving Jennifer. When they get up again, Jennifer knows their only hope is to fly out and make it to somewhere they can get help. For the time being, she's forgotten her ill feelings towards Matt, but not forgiven. They manage to get into the air but they are far from out of danger.

Admiral Petkov gets a message that tells him the political gloves are off. Delta team has been assembled and deployed. This is Viktor's strength. He knows how to employ strategy and deceit to get what he wants. He also has a nuclear arsenal which gives him a huge advantage.



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Four: Airborne

Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Four: Airborne Summary

Jennifer tries to ignore the Cessna as it fires on them. She drops into the gorge and follows it to the Continental Divide, plunging over the waterfall, hidden in its mist. Matt tries the radio but solar storms prevent anything from getting through. Then he realizes she is headed for Arrigetch Peaks. The Cessna has almost caught up when Jennifer flies into the maze. The Otter is put through its paces as Jennifer zigzags through the rock maze. They clear the Arrigetch but so do their pursuers. Matt tells Jennifer to take them back into the peaks. He grabs the flare gun, aiming at the figure in the opening of the plane but it explodes in front and as the pilot reacts abruptly, the man in the opening falls out, left hanging by a tether. The men in the Cessna cut the dangling man free and continue the chase. Jenny flies out of Arrigetch through Devil's Pass and the other plane follows until she dips her wings in the water below, blinding the plane behind her. When the Cessna emerges, the wings are sheared.

Amanda Reynolds enjoys her privacy as she ice sails across the barren land. Though she couldn't hear the wind or the hiss of the runners on the ice, it was still one of the only places where she could forget the car accident and her resulting deafness. As head of Omega, she had been called by Dr. Henry Ogden of the biology team to settle some things. She took down her sail and glided in. Then she went straight to level four where she is told that everyone had been kept out of the 'Crawlspace' pending her arrival. Henry greets her and tells her he thinks he knows why the ice station was built there. He takes her in. Amanda notices the colored marks on the walls as they wander deeper into the warren of ice. Some ways into the tunnels, they round a bend and it empties into a large cave. The floor space was huge and the back wall was solid rock dating back to the last ice age and broken from the land mass when the glacier calved.

Ogden explains the lichen, moss and bird's nests complete with eggs that were found, but the real treasure is further in. He puts his flashlight against the frozen lake and pours water over the surface to reveal the creature below. It looks like a beluga, but has forelimbs with raking claws and large, webbed hind legs. The torso seems longer as well. Ogden shows her another one curled up in the ice like a dog and against the back wall are six ice blocks each with a creature curled in a fetal position. In the center of the chamber, one of the creatures stretches across the floor. Ogden tells her it is a 'walking whale' and is the evolutionary link between the modern whale and land dwelling mammals. The Russians called it a 'Grendel'.



Act One: Snow Flight: Chapter Four: Airborne Analysis

Jennifer is adept and confident in the Twin Otter. Though Jennifer taught Matt how to fly, he was too cautious to truly excel in her mind. She pushed the envelope, daring to do things most wouldn't and right now, that was exactly what was necessary. Since the Cessna obviously wasn't giving up, Jennifer had to rely on her knowledge of the area and take a risk. When Matt realizes she is headed for Arrigetch, he tightens his seat belt. Matt tries to focus on how beautiful it is instead of where they are going. In his opinion, it is madness to fly though. The rocks and winds were deadly. The Cessna is still pushing and Jennifer flies into the maze. Matt is clutching both arms of the seat until his arms hurt and Craig gasps occasionally from the back seat as Jennifer works her way through the spires and pinnacles. Jennifer finally eludes the Cessna by luring it into Devil's Pass and then blinding the pilot with spray from her wingtips. Matt is as impressed and awed by her performance as she is shaken.

Amanda loves to ice sail. She built the ice boat with her brother, and sailing it gave her a freedom that she could experience nowhere else. Since the accident that took her hearing, and the death of her mother, her father had been over protective and kept her always close. It felt like smothering to Amanda. When Greg Perry came into her life, things really improved. He didn't see a woman with a disability. He just saw a woman.

Amanda is called to the Ice Station by Dr. Henry Ogden, and she is stunned by what he shows her. He takes her into the area named the Crawlspace, and after making his way through the ice tunnel warren, he shows her a cavern that has a rock wall as its back. Ogden tells her that it likely carved off when the glacier calved eons ago, but it took with it a number of incredible specimens that included moss, lichen, birds with nests and the most amazing thing Amanda has ever seen. It is a 'walking whale' by Ogden's description. It's the evolutionary link between whales and land mammals. Amanda can't believe what she is seeing, and Ogden is behaving like a child in a toy store. This is the Russian's Grendel.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Five: Slippery Slope

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Five: Slippery Slope Summary

Bane snores in the Cessna as Jennifer points out the just forming display of northern lights that will hamper their communications for a while longer. They fly to Prudhoe Bay but before they can land, a flurry of activity alerts them to another issue. Matt tells Jenny to get them out of there just as an explosion rips through the area. In seconds, the town is engulfed in flames, explosions from gas mains burning everywhere. A radio message orders all air space cleared immediately. John suggests to Kaktovik and Jenny that there isn't fuel for the trip, but as luck would have it, they make it. Jenny inspects the plane while Bane remains at her side. Bennie Haydon fills her tanks for her and his wife Belinda makes breakfast. Bennie tries to discover their destination, but they have decided to keep it a secret.

Aboard the USS Polar Sentinel, the Captain gives the word that they have been ordered to readiness, but that's it. As Captain Perry is calming his agitated crew, another message comes through. Their Russian guests would be arriving early. They are informed to be friendly unless circumstances dictate otherwise, and the message adds that Admiral Viktor Petkov is aboard. To support them, Delta Force Teams are being routed to Alaska. He tells his men to ready themselves to dive, and they take that to mean they are headed for Prudhoe Bay, but they don't realize that they'll see action soon enough.

On the Drakon, Viktor watches on the video monitor as divers secure a titanium sphere in place. A meter length of anchoring bolt is screwed into the underneath of the ice cap and the device clamped to it. This was only one of five identical units, all positioned a hundred kilometers from the ice island in a circle, marking the points of a star. The sites are selected via exact coordinates and the master trigger is all that remains and it must be positioned in the middle of this star. Though Moscow had ordered Viktor to retrieve his father's work from the ice station, Viktor had other ideas.

Captain Mikovsky has no idea what they are but he is not a stupid man and had seen the equipment and weapons loaded. Viktor misleads him into believing the devices are electronic surveillance. The truth is far deadlier. The master trigger was a subsonic disrupter engine. It would first blast a mile wide crater and then send out an EM pulse that would trigger the explosion of the five spheres to amplify the harmonics in all directions and destroy the polar ice cap. Having Polaris at his command was the icing on the cake. Viktor knew that as a result of Project Shockwave, a new ice age would occur.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Five: Slippery Slope Analysis

Jennifer questions Matt about Bane and fixing his deviated septum. He has snored since he was a puppy and it is a link they still share. They fly along in companionable silence for a while, watching the display of northern lights and Jenny tries to talk to Matt, but he shuts her down. He doesn't want to threaten this moment of peace and she sighs with exasperation. The moment of peace is lost and tension rises between them again. The rest of the trip is bitter and strained. The explosion at Prudhoe Bay shocks them all. They couldn't dismiss the likelihood that this was connected to the plane and its occupants. It seemed that someone didn't want the political reporter reaching the SCICEX station. Craig insists that it was a calculated act designed to distract and misdirect. Bennie Haydon casually passes on that Matt has quit drinking but Jenny doesn't want to hear it.

The men on the USS Polar Sentinel were hoping for something more exciting, tiring of the babysitting job they'd been assigned so far. A message is received, and in it are two messages coded just for Greg. One is an LR code which tells him that there is considerable Langley Reconnaissance going on, and the other was to 'keep his tap shoes polished' which was a coded way of saying that things were about to hit the fan.

Viktor is on a mad man's mission. He uses the Drakon to deploy five spheres, the operation of which only he is aware, and only he controls the trigger to. The placement and detonation of the five beginning with a central explosion and its harmonic trigger would destabilize the polar ice cap, melting it entirely within a year. The resulting climate change and desalination of the oceans would trigger the next ice age within a mere fifty thousand years. Viktor sees this as his legacy, and though Moscow has instructed him to retrieve his father's work from Ice Station Grendel, he has other plans. Viktor plans to retrieve his father's body and then activate Project Shockwave and change the world.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Six: Icebound

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Six: Icebound Summary

Matt watches the sunrise. At this latitude, there are only ten or so sunrises a year. John sees the ice fog and announces a storm is coming. The Omega Drift Station is about six miles from its last coordinates, but Jenny finds it. Matt questions Craig's knowledge of the Drift Station and whether or not they have a military contingent, but Craig pleads ignorance. As they neared, Craig mumbles his appreciation that at least it is a US base, having seen their flag. What aren't below are any signs of white parkas, so Jenny brings the plane in. Six snowmobiles of Navy men approached and their welcome was anything but warm. In the crawlspace inside, Amanda can't stop staring at the Grendel. Research time in the cavern is at a premium and all of the scientists are scrambling for time, creating more than one professional bloom of impatience.

The carcass that the Russians had begun dissecting was almost thawed and the six blocks of Grendels already thawing as well. Dr. Oskar Willig tells her how they remind him of the Norse dragons in their current postures. Lacy Devlin is also in the crawlspace, but her shift under Connor MacFerran didn't begin for another two hours. She speeds down the tunnels, following her orange arrow markers, enjoying the exercise skating gave her. A noise makes her look back, almost missing a marker. There are so many tunnels that it would be easy to get lost if she got off course. She sees a large albino shape, thinks polar bear, turns and races off, plunging straight into a shear pit before she can stop. Only fifteen feet down, it is still enough to crack an ankle and she crumples. The creature looks down at her and she realizes her mistake as it begins to climb into the pit.

Matt, Jenny, Craig and John are taken to a mess hall where they are held at gunpoint. Even Jenny's sheriff's badge and credentials hadn't helped. Matt remembers the polynya he'd seen and realizes that whoever is in charge must still be on the submarine below them. Since their arrival, not even a senior researcher had been allowed to talk to them. Finally, the head of the security team arrives and returns their identification but not their firearms. Craig protests saying they'd only come because they heard that an abandoned Russian Ice Base had been found and the rest of the group is stunned by that revelation. Craig continues to explain that someone had tried to kill them, and Matt backs his story. Again they are told they will have to wait until someone in command can make a decision regarding their fate.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Six: Icebound Analysis

John can see that something disturbed his daughter when they stopped for fuel at Bennie and Belinda's. He didn't know what, but whatever it was somehow also softened his heart to Matt, and he puts a hand on his shoulder, giving it a squeeze of encouragement that takes Matt by surprise. That small gesture is enough to unbalance him emotionally. The landing at Omega Drift Station is a stop in hell for Matt who learned the hard way that ice is not always trustworthy. In fact, it will let you down when you least expect it, and he had to concentrate to get his hands to let go of the armrests even after they'd landed. The Navy is not exactly welcoming after the unexplained explosions at Prudhoe Bay, and the group is ordered to comply or else.

Amanda is amazed at the amount of work that's been done overnight. She plays referee when Connor the geologist and Ogden butt heads over time in the cavern for research, but she quickly sorts them out. Dr. Willig describes the Norse dragons of his childhood and the symbol that means both eternal life and the end of the world, and Amanda can't help think about Level Four and wonder what really happened when the Russians were there in the 1930's. Lacy Devlin is also in the tunnels but she is in an area she has carefully mapped out that avoids all areas of interest to the researchers. Strapped into speed skates, she takes advantage of some free time to exercise, but shadows and noises make her nervous.

At first, Amanda writes it off to unconscious guilt for having slept with Connor while his wife waits at home for him, but decides to take one of her short cuts back. She hears noise ahead of her then and brakes, calling out, feeling frightened and foolish at the same time. Her helmet illuminated the orange markers as she told herself that she only needed to make it through the maze and then she'd be back at civilization. The red eyes from far down the tunnel illuminated, as well. She knew immediately what she was seeing. She turned and raced off on her blades, lost within minutes. Terror kept her moving as she remembered the movement they saw on the sonar from the sub. She is thinking polar bear right up until it chases her off the edge into a shear pit, and as it looks down on her she realizes she couldn't be more wrong.

Matt is tiring of the guns pointed at them. The attitude of the soldiers guarding them is tense and attentive which makes him wonder. He is also left with the impression that the Captain of the submarine will return soon which makes him wonder why he hadn't been deployed to Prudhoe Bay. What could be more important? Were they expecting trouble? Matt wonders what kind of clandestine war they are in the middle of.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Seven: Running Silent

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Seven: Running Silent Summary

Viktor is waiting for a go code from Colonel General Chenko of FSB and has meanwhile completed the diagnostics of Polaris. His watch allowed him to communicate with the array no matter where in the world he was. Finally a message arrives with confirmation. Their primary objective is to collect data and materials, and their secondary objective is to 'clean' the site. The message also confirms black operations by Delta team and both sides seem to agree that a private war is about to be fought. He presses the silver button on the watch, holding it to activate Polaris. Now there is no turning back. The lights of the array are lit on his watch and there is no fail safe.

Captain Perry searches for the Drakon without success. Radio contact is made with Prudhoe Bay and he learns of the plane that landed that morning and heads for the base. Amanda receives word of their visitors and as senior civilian at Omega, she orders that they be brought to the Ice Station. Matt, Jenny, John and Craig are split up and under guard are loaded into Sno-cats for the thirty mile trip to the Ice Station. They are well under way when the Drakon shows itself and all in Matt's group take note of their white parkas just as the satellite shack explodes. Their next shots hit one of their guards in the leg and when he climbs aboard again the driver is convinced to use all haste to get to the Ice Station. The next explosion is right in front of them, and unable to stop, Jenny's group in the Sno-cat tumbles into the icy water through the hole. Captain Perry aboard the Sentinel has seen the entire exchange but without weaponry is defenseless. His only hope is to get to the Ice Station before the Drakon and evacuate as many as possible.

Meanwhile, Amanda gets word that Lacy is missing. She joins Connor to search and notices the place where Lacy's skates veer off the path. They find the pit and Amanda tells Connor to lower her down. She goes just far enough to realize that Lacy is likely dead, but when she goes back Connor is gone. His light is bouncing around in a crazy pattern and then his helmet skids off and all Amanda can see is a large shadow. She dives into the crawlspace only to find that it is not a way out. It is a nest, and Amanda's body is there.

In the second Sno-cat on the surface, Matt and Craig are with two soldiers who have no idea the first cat is under the ice. Visibility is bad, and communications are worse. Jenny comes to and sees the driver is dead. Using a side arm, she fires at the glass and they push out into the cold sea to swim for the surface as the cat continues to sink. They get to the surface and work their way out of the pit. Her father wraps his arms around her and the tears freeze as they fall down her cheeks.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Seven: Running Silent Analysis

On the Drakon, the crew is impatient. They are waiting for orders to proceed. Finally they come, and Viktor tries to hide the smirk the orders bring. Both sides are acknowledging that a war was about to be fought in secret, and Viktor looked forward to it all. He activates Polaris and thinks about the legacy it will give him. A new world order will be established.

Captain Perry is tired. He is on his way back from a night of searching for the Drakon when he hears about their visitors and the possible connection they have to the explosions at Prudhoe Bay. Amanda is learning about them at the same time, and instead of going to the Omega station to meet with Perry, she decides to have the visitors brought to the Ice Station before the storm hits. Her decision is made mostly because as a civilian she is tired of the way everything is being covered up. With a reporter in the group coming, she hopes that will change. She knows her decision won't be a popular one with some people - her Admiral father included, but she is past the point of caring.

When the group is on the open ice and sees the Drakon surface, they all know there will be trouble, but Matt and his group sees the white parkas and experiences another kind of dread. Before they have a chance to communicate any of it, the Drakon takes out the satellite shack and then fires on the Sno-cats. Captain Perry hears the explosion and knows he has to evacuate the Ice Station. The Drakon still doesn't know the Sentinel is there, and right now that is their only advantage.

Matt is frantic as communication with the other Sno-cat is lost. He pesters the driver to continue to try to reach them, but they get no answer. Craig tries to calm him down, but Matt can't stop thinking that the woman he loved and probably still loves is in trouble. Still, the guards are under orders to go straight to the Ice Station, and they have no intention of altering that plan. In the second Sno-cat, the driver is dead but Jenny won't panic. Her father is okay and after breaking the glass they swim out into the freezing water and head for the surface. They manage to get out, and for the first time since she was a child, her father holds her. It breaks her last wall down and she cries, apologizing to him. John tells her to conserve her energy, but Jenny is close to giving up.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Eight: Hunter / Killer

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Eight: Hunter / Killer Summary

Captain Perry surfaces and members of his crew round up as many of the Ice Station occupants as possible in the short window of time they have before the Drakon arrives. Some still in the crawl space could not be reached in time and are left behind with a small contingent of armed men from the sub. One of them is Amanda, who is still in the beasts' cave next to the body of Lacy. The beast seemed to sense the sonar scan and fled from it. Terrible realization dawns as she recalls that whales sense sonar. Turning off her flashlight, she sees its shadow. She turns the light on and tosses it to Lacy's body, hoping it will distract the creature. Her insulated suit leaves only her face exposed and she cools that with ice just as a living Grendel enters. It hunches across from her, measuring at least ten feet in length. It attacks her flashlight but doesn't seem to see her.

Lieutenant Commander Roberto Bratt and Lieutenant Serina Washburn are two of the submarine staff members left behind searching for Amanda. They use a bullhorn to locate some of the missing including Dr. Ogden who are still with the Grendel specimens, unwilling to leave this critical stage of their thaw. As they discuss the issue, and Amanda's whereabouts, the Grendels on the floor revive and using sonar, one calls to the others.

Jenny didn't want to die on the ice, but couldn't keep her eyes open. Noise brings her back again and she watches as hovercraft approach with men in white parkas. She hears Russian being spoken and the next thing she remembers is burning pain as the blood returns to her mildly frostbitten limbs. Lieutenant Commander Sewell held her in the shower as he slowly increased the heat, telling her that her father is fine but Fernandez had not made it. Slowly she learns that the Russians have taken over the base.

The other sno-cat with Matt and Craig barely makes it to the Ice Station in time. The Russians arrive almost simultaneously, and they are forced to drive the sno-cat right down the stairs into the tunnel. After they disembark, they can hear the Russians coming from above, and gunfire from below. The emptiness of the Station tells them that the Sentinel has already evacuated most personnel, and Petty Officer Frank O'Donnell suspects that it is stragglers from their side who are below. He suggests they get arms from the third level armory and hide in the crawlspace.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Eight: Hunter / Killer Analysis

Captain Perry is loathe leaving anyone behind, but has no choice. He has to protect those already on board the sub. Reluctantly, and without Amanda, he submerges. Amanda, unable to hear, can't tell if the beast is still there or not. She is about to risk a look when she sees its shadow. She uses the ice to hide herself and tries not to scream when the creature enters the nest. Lt. Com. Bratt and Lt. Washburn search for stragglers, using a bullhorn that Amanda doesn't hear. They find Ogden and some of the junior staff still thawing out the remaining Grendels, and as they discuss the situation, the Grendels begin to regain consciousness and communicating with each other via sonar.

Ogden is amazed and awed by them, but Bratt is not. In fact, he feels they should be shot immediately. Ogden thinks the Russians are trying to commandeer the base because they know about this, but Bratt knows about level four and knows this is about cover up - not scientific discoveries.

Jenny and her father are rescued by the Russians and taken back to Omega base where they are looked after by Lt. Com. Sewell and the others who are being held captive. Matt and Craig along with their escorts manage to reach the Ice Station just as the Russians arrive and begin shooting. The sno-cat is driven straight down the tunnel stairs and the occupants tumble out the broken windshield. Matt and Craig are both surprised to find the Station relatively empty, but Petty Officer Frank O'Donnell explains that the Sentinel likely picked up the scientists already. Craig grouses that it is just their luck to have come to warn them only to have them already gone, but there is no time to debate the issue as the Russians use explosives to clear the Sno-cat from the entrance way.

Gunfire erupts from below them as well and though O'Donnell seems comforted by the fact that they are likely stragglers from their side, Matt is not. He is worried about Jennifer, and can't stop wondering what it is that those below them are shooting at. The idea of hiding sounds good though, and he follows O'Donnell to the crawlspace as suggested.



Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Nine: Dead End & Chapter Ten: Blood On The Ice

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Nine: Dead End & Chapter Ten: Blood On The Ice Summary

Amanda holds her breath as the Grendel comes towards her but something distracts it and it takes off. She climbs out after it. Connor's macerated form is frozen to the ice, and she tries not to look at him as she takes his helmet with its miner's light, his axe, and at the last moment his radio. She broadcasts her situation, finds the green trail markers, and heads towards the exit. Matt, Craig, Lieutenant Greer, Pearlson and O'Donnell go into the crawlspace to avoid the Russians, but find a group heading out in great haste. Greer recognizes Washburn who tells Pearlson and O'Donnell to take the civilians to the exit and wait. Commander Bratt reaches them as the first Grendel comes into view. Shot multiple times, it takes many more rounds before collapsing. Others push its dead body from behind.

The buzzing in Matt's head diminishes, but begins again from behind. He hears Amanda's transmission, but something is wrong with her radio and now the solitary Grendel separates him from the others. Amanda's message of green diamonds reveals they are trail markers and he follows the green ones. Amanda finds him and they give each other abbreviated versions of who they are and why they are there.

Captain Mikovsky relays to Admiral Petkov at the Omega base that the Station is secure, but that five Americans were unaccounted for and fills him in on the situation with the Sno-cat. Petkov confirms that the Captain has offloaded the meter wide nuclear sphere and the time of the subs rendezvous with the Station. The transmission ends as Mikovsky gets word that sonar signals are emitting from within the Ice Station. At Omega, Jenny is feeling thawed. One by one, everyone in the group is interrogated by a large, white haired Russian. The sub is gone, but explosives have been laid. Jenny and Kowalski escape through a skylight. They head for the Otter, hidden from plain sight by the severity of the storm. On the way, they run into Bane and Tom Pomautuk. Jenny manages to get the Otter in the air, but with less than an eighth of a tank of fuel, their options are limited.

Matt and Amanda use her helmet and air warming mask to lure the Grendel away so that they can begin heading out of the tunnels instead of further into them. It works long enough to get them headed the right way. They reach the rest of the group and everyone exits the crawlspace just ahead of the Grendels. A Russian soldier sees them almost immediately, and as he is gaining control of this new group of captives, the metal door is attacked. The Russian shoots reflexively, killing O'Donnell who doesn't get down fast enough. The rest manage to get through the door that takes them into the research



center at the heart of the Station. When the lights are turned on, what greets them is horrifying.

Act Two: Fire And Ice: Chapter Nine: Dead End & Chapter Ten: Blood On The Ice Analysis

Amanda is terrified and face to face with the beast. She is afraid she will give herself away, unable to hold her breath any longer as it stares at the space she has wedged herself into, but something else distracts it. When it leaves she almost sobs with relief, wondering what drew it away and onto the hunt again. Was Connor calling out? Was someone else near? She wastes little time before making her way out. Now her disability is a true setback as she can't hear others in the space, or the beasts as they approach. Shaking with fear, she knows she must exit the crawlspace to survive, so she takes what she can from Connor's lifeless form, sobbing as she does, and heads off. She finally connects with Matt, who after listening to her cliff note version of events knows they have to get out of the ice nest that is the crawlspace. Everyone else is presumably at the exit with Greer.

Captain is grateful when Admiral Petkov disembarks and his team performs perfectly as they take control of the Ice Station. Admiral Petkov makes him nervous, and even by radio he is intimidated by him, acknowledging to himself that 'White Ghost' is truly a fitting nickname. He radios the success of their mission but is further disturbed by the Admirals apparent eagerness to have the nuclear sphere offloaded at the Ice Station. The situation is intensified when he gets word that low sonar pings are coming from inside the Station.

Jenny is feeling energized after thawing. A soldier is added to their growing group of captives who tells them that the sub has gone but that holes had been drilled and incendiary charges laid. It is becoming clear that the Russians are there to plunder and purge. Since Jenny is the best pilot, she and Kowalski climb out of the skylight of the hut and Jenny can only think of Matt, hoping he is safe and wishing she could tell him how sorry she was face to face. They get the plane in the air, barely and Kowalski is in awe of her capabilities, but Jenny knows that with less than an eighth of a tank, they have about fifty miles of flight ability.

Matt and Amanda manage to reach Greer and the rest of the fleeing personnel and everyone exits the crawlspace just ahead of the Grendels. A Russian soldier begins giving them orders to surrender on the other side, but he is soon distracted by the Grendels who bash their way through the metal door. They manage to escape into the main research laboratory on level four, and when the lights go on, Matt is horrified.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eleven: Timeless and Chapter Twelve: Raiding Parties

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eleven: Timeless and Chapter Twelve: Raiding Parties Summary

Admiral Petkov is driven to the Ice Station where he discovers level four has been penetrated, Grendels are loose, and two prisoners have escaped. He tells Captain Mikovsky to go to Omega, retrieve their personnel and ignite the buried charges to melt the base into the ocean. The survivors orient themselves in the lab, knowing the Grendel attack will only buy them a short reprieve. The lab has containers, all filled with human subjects, faces contorted in pain. Dr. Ogden explains that the Russians were seeking to imitate the Grendels form of cryogenics - immortality by hibernation. A soldier knocks and tells them to open the door or pay the price. They run.

Matt counts the tanks as he passes them, figuring there must be at least fifty. Dr. Ogden flips a switch and turns one tank on accidentally. They find a hatch and get it open just as the Russians break through. It doesn't take long for the Russian soldiers to figure out where they've gone and before everyone is out of the hatch on the other side, the Russians throw a grenade in and Pearson dives on top of it, saving the others.

Jenny flies to the Ice Station Grendel which offers shelter. Without fuel they have limited options. She manages to land, running out of fuel on a blind approach. The impact with the ice cliff ensures the plane will not fly again but everyone survives without injury. Tom tells them about a ventilation shaft that leads to an area called the crawlspace and leads them there. The cold is biting, and the ventilation shaft is at the top of the mile high berg. They finally reach it, but not before encountering a Grendel on its way in as well. They dive into the shaft, Jenny using a flare gun to discourage the Grendel from its chase.

The Polar Sentinel eavesdrops on the Russian conversation that calls for the destruction of Omega. Captain Mikovsky surfaces at Omega and confirms the order to blow the station. Ted Kanter, a Delta Force operative, watches camouflaged outside the Omega Drift Station. When he reports the Russians are leaving the station, he is given a go order. To delay the Drakon, Perry pings them with sonar. They also hear the rotor wash of helicopters. Captain Mikovsky hears them as well and realizes they are pinned down from top and bottom. The helicopter sends out a sidewinder, missing the Drakon but a soldier with a rocket launcher does not miss. Mikovsky watches from external cameras as the helicopter flies over and recognizes the drums attached to its undercarriage as depth charges. Inside the Drift Station, while some panic, John sits calmly.



The last thing Mikovsky does is fire the UGST rocket torpedo mounted in a flank tube. The helicopter is hit and as the Helibus behind it is hit with debris, it also goes down, right on top of Kanter who has no time to move. Perry sees it all. The Drakon sinks, and a good deal of Delta One die with it. In Hawaii, Admiral Reynolds is summoned by Charles Landley or NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) and is shown a report on the Grendel Ice Station, its mission and human experimentation, and the Delta Force objective. After reading the three pages, he clutches his arm and sinks to his knees.

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eleven: Timeless and Chapter Twelve: Raiding Parties Analysis

Viktor's first reaction when he hears of the escape of Jenny and Kowalski is anger, but he stifles that. It won't help. He reminds himself of the bigger picture, looking at his watch, and finds his calm again.

The survivors stare at the laboratory contents with a mixture of horror, disgust and disbelief. The containers in the lab are filled with people of all ages, and notebooks in some kind of coded language are on a shelf documenting their years of testing. It is a macabre sight, and few in the room appreciate the science of the project. The knock at the door disturbs their discussion. Matt counts the people in canisters, and all he wants is to get back to the wilderness where the worst thing you'll come across is an occasional grizzly. Dr. Ogden comments that all of the subjects are indigenous, and Matt is drawn back to the tank holding a young boy who is about the same age as Tyler was when he died. It made him glad Jenny wasn't there to see it.

Jenny hums her way through a dangerous landing, with Kowalski alternating between prayer and cursing in the seat beside her. She manages to put the plane down, but the landing is none too gentle, and the Otter is finished. Jenny feels a pang of regret, but they owe it their lives for which she is grateful. They head for the shaft that leads to the crawlspace where Tom figures they'll be safe. By the time they finally find themselves inside the crawlspace, Kowalski has soaked his leg in an unexpected sinkhole, they've encountered their first Grendel, and discovered blood in the tunnels of the crawlspace. Kowalski's voices their collective feelings when he announces they should never have left the Drift Station.

Captain Perry isn't sure how much of his decision is based on the fact that Amanda was still somewhere on shore, but the rest of the crew and even the civilians have expressed their acceptance of the risks involved. No one wants to back away when it is possible they can help those still stuck at Omega before they die needlessly. Perry decides to turn around and face the music instead of run. Captain Mikovsky surfaces and can tell that his crew doesn't really want to carry this particular order out, but he doesn't have much of a choice. An order from an Admiral was an order. He orders the men to double check the explosives, and bring all of their men back with them within fifteen minutes. From there, they will detonate and eliminate Omega Drift Station.



Ted Kanter, one of the Delta Force team members watches as the Russians evacuate and is relieved when the order to go is finally given. It had been a test of his patience to watch men killed without responding, waiting for orders to continue in. Perry waffles back and forth between feeling like they've already lost and should evacuate themselves, and seeing Amanda's face in his mind and needing to bring her out alive. The latter wins as he throws caution to the wind, pinging the Drakon to distract them long enough for the Sentinel to get there. Captain Mikovsky is hearing the same rotor wash from helicopters as the Sentinel is, along with the ping from the Sentinel's doorbell. The helicopter fires on the Drakon first and misses but the soldier with the rocket launcher doesn't, forcing the sub up on one end as the other fills with water. He knows now he has to rely on their mercy as captives, but the depth charges on the underside of the helicopter assure him there will be no mercy. The Sentinel dives to get out of the way, realizing the Cavalry has finally arrived. From half a mile away, Perry stands in the cyclops station and watches the battle.

In the Omega Drift Station, the captives had been bound after the discovery of Jennifer and Kowalski's escape. John took great comfort from his daughter's freedom, and like a true Inuit, he accepted his coming death stoically. Kanter watches the attack on the Drakon with pride as his team members systematically remove that chess piece from the game. Then he sees movement on the flank of the sub. The resulting torpedo takes out both the Delta One helicopter, and the Helibus behind it which falls to the ground directly on top of Kanter. There is nothing he can do or say. Captain Perry had seen it all, and now he waits indecisively. In Hawaii, Admiral Reynolds suffers a stroke after learning the truth behind the Grendel Ice Station, its original mandate and Delta Forces objectives.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Thirteen: Run Of The Station and Chapter Fourteen: Three Blind Mice

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Thirteen: Run Of The Station and Chapter Fourteen: Three Blind Mice Summary

Matt confers with the others. They split up and use a localized blackout so one group can reach the armory, while Craig leads the second group if necessary to a place of safety. Admiral Petkov reaches his father's lab and sees that three journals are missing. He gives the order to arm the explosive on Level Five and when his watch shows Polaris is primed, he activates it, the trigger synced with his heartbeat. Matt, Greer, Bratt and Washburn head for the armory, take out two remaining soldiers and Matt dons the white pants and parka of one soldier to stand in the hallway while the others gather weapons. When they return, Craig and the others have left.

Viktor's reminiscence is interrupted when a soldier draws his attention to the tank Dr. Ogden had inadvertently turned on. The water is warm, and the young boy inside is twitching. Fingers curl around Viktor's with surprising strength. Craig has taken his group to the station's sea gate room which had flooded at one time, and then frozen over. He pulls out one of the three volumes from the lab. Jenny, Kowalski, Tom and Bane make their way through the crawlspace, using the flare gun to keep the Grendels at bay. The flashlight goes out and Jenny sees light in the distance. Following it, they find Craig and his group but a yard of ice separates them. Amanda has the idea to use the fuel drums to create a Molotov cocktail of sorts. It draws the Russians to them.

Craig raises the hood on his parka and calls Delta One, identifying himself as Osprey. He learns that Delta has control of the Drift Station but has lost all but one helicopter, telling them to wait for his command. The rest of his group is stunned. He identifies himself as CIA and tells them his name is not important, but if they work together, they'll get out. They climb through the hole to Jenny's group, and Jenny is stunned by the revelation of who he is. He apologizes, but tells him they have to go fast if they are to survive, and find their way back out of the ventilation shaft. On the way, Craig explains his subterfuge and when they reach the shaft, Jenny puts on Amanda's crampons and climbs to the surface.

Matt and his group head for Level one. He uses his white parka and pants to imitate a Russian in the hopes that he can help his group make it to the surface. Using only da or nyet, he manages to bluff his way through one encounter, but drops a grenade. When the other soldier picks it up, he recognizes the age of the armament and the gig is up.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Thirteen: Run Of The Station and Chapter Fourteen: Three Blind Mice Analysis

Matt kneels in his long underwear on the ice, having lost his pants in a fight with a Grendel, as the options are reviewed. Admiral Petkov stands in his father's lab and receives the news of the Drakon stoically. Now all that remains is to carry out their mission, knowing that it will be their last. He had hoped to return to Russia to vindicate his father and clear his family's name, but now that dream would not come to be. He had finally come full circle from his admission to the Navy at the age of eighteen when he went home and found his mother had hung herself, to the place where his father died. He's experienced one death and another, and now his own. His heart is filled with vengeance. It has been a long time since Matt was a soldier, and killing the young guard is difficult for him. He has to remember Jenny and how this war was not started by them to get past the bile that gathers in his throat. He manages to pass himself off as a guard for just long enough for Greer, Washburn and Bratt to load up with weapons.

Viktor is stunned when the young boy in the chamber begins to show signs of life. Now nothing else matters to him. Everything he hoped for is wrapped up in this young boy's survival. He issues new orders that the Americans be hunted and killed instead of just rounded up and detained. Craig takes his group as far away as he can. They end up in the sea gate room and Amanda can hardly contain her fury. She had wanted to remain behind until at least the fate of Matt and his group had been ascertained, but she had been outvoted. Now, Craig can't face her, and instead buries himself in the first of the three volumes he took from the research lab. He chooses volumes one, two and the final volume, figuring they would contain everything of importance, but the writing inside will require decoding. They are further distracted by barking and as it gets louder Craig recognizes it as Bane.

Jenny berates herself for not following a better maintenance schedule when the flashlight from the plane gives up. Kowalski once again can't help voicing his complete displeasure with everything Arctic. Standing in the dark, Kowalski suggests they use a flare to guide their way, but with only two left, Jenny is reluctant to burn one. Then she notices light in the distance and they link hands and move forward in the dark towards it. They reach an area where the light is stronger, coming through a yard of ice and Jenny recognizes Craig's voice on the other side. The hole gets wider and then people begin coming through to Jenny's surprise. Kowalski figures surrender to the Russians would be a better option than facing the Grendels but Craig tells him they are dead either way.

Jenny can't hide her astonishment when Craig's true identity is revealed. He apologizes to her, but reminds her there is no time to talk now. They have to move. When Kowalski hears that the Drift Station is back under American control, he grouses further about the fact that they escaped at just the wrong time. They reach the ventilation shaft and Jenny uses Amanda's crampons to climb to the surface and secure a rope for the others to climb out. On her way up, she can hear her father's voice telling her to go slow and



steady, and then Matt's voice from the distant past, telling her he loved her so much. She echoes his sentiments now as she climbs.

Fear for Jenny's safety dulls Matt's sympathy for the Russians as Greer and the others explain the most recent explosion as booby trapped bodies left in the armory for the Russians. Matt plays Russian again to be the eyes for his group and advance them to the surface. He manages to bluff his way through an encounter, but can't free the others with the amount of resistance still in the area.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Fifteen: Storm Warning

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Fifteen: Storm Warning Summary

Jenny makes it to the surface, and the others begin climbing up but the Grendels close in from the top and the bottom in a coordinated attack. There is no escaping them. Matt and his group are faring no better. Greer is hit in the leg, and the arterial blood that flows from the wound signifies his end. He shrugs and covers their exit, but Admiral Petkov, holding a crying young boy, and more men arrive. Everything goes wrong. The firefight continues on all sides. Jenny and her group are struggling against a pack of Grendels while Matt and his group face a cleanup crew of Russians. Everyone in Matt's group is caught but him. As Jenny and her group approach from the top, Bane recognizes Matt and breaks free of Jenny, racing to him and Matt is stunned to see him. He hears someone calling him and realizes it is Jenny just as a rocket launcher separates them again.

To avoid capture, Matt jumps into a hole in the ice and swims for the opening the Russian sub had used, but finally reaching it in the frigid waters, he discover six inches of ice have sealed it shut. He begins to believe he will die like Tyler did, but then sees the shapes in the water with him. He tries not to panic as they approach him slowly, and then remembers the pineapple in his pocket. He's close to losing consciousness as he pulls the pin and drops it, allowing its own weight to take it downward. He exhales, opening his mouth and allowing sea water to fill it. Then he tucks into a ball and closes his eyes, praying his plan works. The explosion propels him upward, opening the ice and throwing him out. He draws a ragged breath, head pounding and falls back to the ice where the Russians are waiting with guns. He is out of options.

Amanda saves her group by freeing her ice boat and balancing weight on both sides, she sails them out of the area with as much speed as she can muster. The Russians give chase. She pushes her ice boat to its limits, going faster than she's ever dared before. Finally, reaching speeds of one hundred miles an hour the Russians finally give up, but not before Amanda hits an ice ridge that damages her brakes. She hopes for an ice axe, knowing that is the only way they'll slow. Craig is using his radio to contact his team, undoubtedly to tell them he has the 'football' and give them his location.

Summary



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Fifteen: Storm Warning Analysis

For Matt and Jennifer, escape and capture alternate with swiftness that is hard to follow. Jenny makes it to the surface of the ventilation shaft, but then has to battle Grendels again. This time there is a growing number of them as they coordinate their attack. Molotov cocktails are not so effective outside until they isolate the largest Grendel, obviously the leader, and as it approaches they put a lit Molotov in its gaping mouth. It explodes and the other Grendels are much less anxious to attack afterward. They make it down the ridge where Bane races away, and Jenny discovers that Matt is still alive. She is stunned and overwhelmed, but can't enjoy the feeling as a rocket launcher separates them again. While Matt dives into a hole in the ice to escape his captors, Amanda frees her ice boat and dividing the passengers on the skids they flee with the Russians in hot pursuit.

Matt almost succumbs to the icy water, the distance between ice holes, and the fact that the second hole has frozen over, but ingenuity and one last grenade keep him alive. He escapes the Grendels in the water only to be tossed to the Russians on the surface. Out of air, options and resources, he surrenders to whatever is coming.

Amanda uses her disability to connect to the ice boat, shutting out everything else and becoming one with her rig. She takes it to new limits, exhilarating and frightening at the same time. Just when the Russians have finally given up, and it looks like escape will be a reality, Amanda realizes they have no brakes. The ice boat is still racing forward as Craig calls his team members, and Amanda asks for an ice axe. She is reluctant to do this, but like Jenny and her aircraft, she must sacrifice her craft in order to save herself and the others with her.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Sixteen: Fathers And Sons

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Sixteen: Fathers And Sons Summary

Jenny takes her ice axe and with Amanda's coaching she begins to hack through the lines of rigging that secured the sail. One hits her as it lets go, and she almost falls off the runner, but Craig catches her and hauls her back aboard. She continues hacking, but then the boom swings around and the only way she can avoid it is to jump above it. Sure she is going to pay heavily, she is stunned when Amanda manages to maneuver the rig under her and catch her as she falls. She finally has control of the sail just as they hear a helicopter approaching. Thankfully, it has American insignia and Craig radios that they are safe and coming in.

Matt sits in a cell in dry Russian clothing. He is back in Level Four and in neighboring cells are Dr. Ogden, his female student and Washburn. Washburn tells Matt that she saw his wife fleeing with Amanda and the guy from the CIA. A guard takes Matt to an office where he recognizes the small boy playing and gasps. Petkov questions Matt about the stolen journals after confirming the child is indeed a success of his father's research. Petkov tells Matt that Jenny escaped to Omega but is in more danger than he is, revealing the Ice Station wasn't Russian, it was American. The US supplied the money and the research subjects for the Russian scientists.

The child speaks, and Matt confirms that Maki mistakes Petkov for his father, and makes the comment that he thought he was supposed to be sleeping. Understanding dawns on Petkov who asks Maki through Matt to take him to where his father is. Maki leads them to a secret room where Petkov's father still sits, having injected himself with the serum. Petkov asks Matt to read the journal found with him. They learn that his father had scuttled the base himself, and Petkov is filled with remorse at having unearthed and revealed the research so that his father's sacrifice was for nothing. He looks at his watch and realizes he can still repair his mistake.

Jenny sees Commander Sewell first and then her father. Jenny approaches Craig who is debating the validity of the journals he's taken. They can't be sure they are the right ones until they are decrypted. Jenny recognizes the Inuit name for Grendel, but when she phonetically sounds out the rest, Craig realizes the language is Russian. He asks Jenny to help him and translating with growing horror over the amount of test subjects, Jenny tells Craig the information is incomplete. He asks her to go with him back to the Ice Station. She agrees provided he returns her pistol. As the helicopter flies away, an explosion shakes them and Omega disappears in its wake. Her father and the rest are gone. She sees surprise in everyone's eye's but Craig's and realizes the truth. Then she understands that her life is connected to her usefulness. She also realizes that her pistol was not returned as promised.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Sixteen: Fathers And Sons Analysis

Jenny is frightened but tries not to think of the speed the sled is going as she hauls herself up to hack away at the lines. Even the line that hits her in the face doesn't stop her. Her life is saved twice, once by Craig and once by Amanda. Jenny is still overwhelmed with the knowledge that Matt was alive and she may have lost him again. The soldiers take him back to Level Four where he is given dry clothing and an education in the history of the ice station. It's hard for him to believe at first, and he even defends his country until he is reminded of other atrocities committed in the name of science or warfare. Understanding is slow in coming, but Petkov knows what that is like. He spent years hating everyone for their part in his father's exile when it turns out that his father scuttled the station himself. His father had recognized the terrible truth of the science he was working on, and decided neither side should have it. He blew up the station to ensure that his research would go down with him.

The child thawed from the experiment speaks to Petkov, but Petkov doesn't understand. Matt translates, and Maki reveals that Petkov's father is supposed to be sleeping. Petkov had never considered that his father may have made a subject of himself. Maki takes them to him. Feeling guilty for having opened all of his father's research up again, Petkov realizes that with his Polaris array, he can fix his mistake so that his father's sacrifice isn't for nothing.

Jenny arrives at the Omega Drift station and is afraid to ask about her father. When she sees him, they hold each other and all of the fear and stress comes to the surface. She cries on his shoulder and he knows that nothing he can say will fix any of it so he just holds her. Jenny helps Craig to decipher the notebooks, but information seems incomplete. Towards the end, Petkov's father had become increasingly paranoid, and had split up the information he documented. What Craig has is only part of the information he is looking for.

As Jenny talks with her father, she catches one of the Delta Force boys tell Craig not to worry. The Russians will be blamed for everything. She doesn't know what it means exactly, but knows she can't trust Craig. When he asks her to come back to the Ice Station with him, she agrees if he will return her pistol. He assures her they will all be armed, but never follows through. They leave in the helicopter and shortly after they are in the air, Omega blows up. Everyone shows surprise but Craig and Jenny are furious, but realize that as long as she stays useful, he will keep her alive. She also realizes she never did get her pistol.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Seventeen: Trial By Fire

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Seventeen: Trial By Fire Summary

Maki is returned with Matt to his cell. Petkov comes to him and finally they agree on one thing. No one should have the research. Petkov wants Matt to take Maki outside with him along with a white flag and parlay a temporary truce with Craig. He agrees. The helicopter approaches as he gets outside, and Jenny recognizes him immediately. When she reveals who it is, Craig orders the pilot to land. He and Jenny approach Matt and Maki, and then along with several armed men, they go inside. The Polaris Array bomb in on the floor in Level one and Petkov explains its link to his heartbeat. If he dies, the countdown changes from almost an hour to one minute. Craig tries to get the other half of the information by threatening to shoot Maki, but an explosion knocks them all over, and Petkov disappears.

Craig's men manage to secure the base quickly, shooting any Russians they come across, but Petkov can't be found. Matt knows Petkov is likely back in the lab with his father, and offers to take Craig there. Jenny is left upstairs with Maki and two soldiers guard the way down to the other levels. She hears a voice coming from behind her and is told to answer through the telephone like radio equipment behind her, but the cord has been cut. He tells her they can see her, and then she hears Amanda's voice, followed by her fathers. The Sentinel had rescued everyone from Omega before Craig's bomb had gone off. They tell her they will find a way to get them out, and ask her to find a radio of any kind. She takes one from a dead soldier nearby and hides it.

Craig and Matt approach Petkov who sits beside his father. He explains the basics of Polaris, and after exacting a promise that Maki will live a normal life, Petkov gives Craig a complicated abort code. Craig locks them all up on Level Four, bringing Jenny and Maki down shortly afterward. Matt tells her that Craig got everything - the samples and the abort code and Petkov laughs, telling them Craig got nothing. The Polaris will explode in twenty-nine minutes.

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Seventeen: Trial By Fire Analysis

Matt sits in his cell with Maki, unable to tear his eyes away from the child who so resembles Tyler that it is frightening. Dr. Ogden is still hypothesizing about how the serum likely works and comments on the brilliance of the scientists and Matt finally explodes. He reminds Ogden that what the scientists did was monstrous, not brilliant.



That quiets Ogden just as Petkov returns to ask Matt to bear a message of temporary truce to Craig.

As Matt heads across the ice with Maki, Jennifer sees them and makes the same leap as Matt did, calling Tyler's name out loud and almost breaking Matt's heart. He introduces Maki to her, and she throws herself into his arms, holding him tight. He responds and she whispers that he shouldn't trust Craig and that Craig had blown up the Omega Drift Station with everyone inside. He tries to console her on the loss of her father. Neither of them knows that the Sentinel had rescued everyone from Omega before the explosion, having received a warning from Amanda's father just in time to save them.

Petkov has no intention of surviving. He goes down to sit with his father until Craig and Matt join him in the secret lab. As Matt and Craig leave the room, Jenny drinks in the sight of him. She resents all of the time they wasted, and quietly makes promises to herself that the wasted time will not continue. Matt feels the same way, knowing that they must survive.

The Sentinel manages to contact Jenny using equipment behind her. They can see her on sonar, and her father recognizes her from the pin in her leg. He talks to her for a moment, promising her that they won't leave her and they will find a way to rescue her. She steals a radio from a dead soldier before being taken down to where Matt and the rest are being kept. Petkov has tricked Craig into thinking there is an abort code, but none exists. He did tell him the truth about the effects of Polaris, and after Craig leaves them in the level four lock up, he tells the rest that the bomb will go off in under thirty minutes, regardless of what anyone does.



Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eighteen: North Star and Epilogue

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eighteen: North Star and Epilogue Summary

They convince Petkov to reveal the locations of the spheres, although he insists the Sentinel will not reach or disarm them in time. As they are ready to relay the information, a guard at the door is killed and Kowalski, Tom and Bane reveal themselves, having entered through yet another ventilation shaft. They are freed quickly and head for the Russian sub frozen into the ice below. Matt uses grenades to free it from the ice, and they begin boarding, but Craig finds them at about the same time as the Grendels enter the waterway from below.

Petkov decides to sacrifice himself for them and the child, letting the Grendels focus on him and telling Matt he has only one minute. Matt relays that to Craig as he shuts the hatch, and Craig runs for the lab and the possible safety of the pod Maki came out of. He had two syringes in his pocket, and locks himself inside just in time. The Russian sub sinks. The Polar Sentinel is put into a dive, and Amanda activates its deep sonar to disrupt the array, and Craig sinks into the ocean in the pod. A small air pocket allows him to breathe, but the cold is numbing. Knowing he has little choice, he injects himself. The explosions kill the remainder of the Delta crew. The Russian sub finds buoyancy and heads back to the surface where they meet with the Sentinel.

A year later, Greg and Amanda - newly married, attend the wedding of Matt and Jennifer. Maki has been adopted by Bennie and Belinda, and can be heard playing with Bane in the other room. Jenny and Matt will start again.

Craig screams and screams, but hears nothing. He now understands why the Russians were so interested in sleep drugs. While the elixir works to suspend animation, it leaves the consciousness intact. On the bottom of the ocean floor, Craig wonders now long.... how long is eternity?

Act Three: Feeding Frenzy: Chapter Eighteen: North Star and Epilogue Analysis

Matt manages to appeal to Petkov, reminding him that his father had injected himself at the last moment, wanting to survive, and had injected the child he considered to be his surrogate son, Maki as well. Both actions confirm that he hadn't given up on humanity, and as such, neither should Viktor. He finally sees the reason behind that argument, and looking at Maki, he realizes that he has grown fond of the boy as well and would like him to survive. He asks Matt to promise him that Maki will have a normal life, and



not be used as a research tool - a request Matt easily grants as he and Jennifer both have a fondness for the boy who so resembles their own son.

Kowalski, Tom and Bane all survive, and rescue the group from their cells just before Craig returns, livid that he has been lied to. The abort code is a farce. It actually translates into "I will see you in your grave". Craig orders them hunted down, but by the time he finds them, they are boarding the Russian sub that Viktor's father had scuttled many years before. Believing they may survive the blast, they are boarding when a Grendel surfaces from beneath.

Afraid to move, they freeze just as Craig finds them. Matt is ready to sacrifice himself by moving and drawing the Grendel to himself so the rest can load, but Viktor realizes what he is doing and takes his place. He tells Craig he is coming, and reminds Matt that he only has a minute. That is how soon after Viktor's death the Polaris bomb will go off. His act is one of unselfishness, and acknowledgment of his regret that his actions are so extreme. He realized how wrong he was the whole time he planned his revenge and that his father had actually orchestrated his fate. When the Grendel takes Viktor, the rest manage to board the sub in the confusion and Matt's parting comment to Craig is 'one minute' as he closes the hatch.

When Craig realizes what Matt means, he races for the only place he may survive the blast. The single pod that Maki came out of was built to stand the test of time and elements, so he locks himself inside it. As the blast goes off, Matt and Jennifer are in an embrace, both sorry for the time they've wasted and grateful to be where they are. Matt and Jennifer both pray for more time to make up for the loss and their prayers are answered. While they are tumbled around a little bit, they are all unharmed. Even Kowalski, Washburn, Maki and Bane are fine.

There are a few tense moments as the sub sinks, but buoyancy takes over before they reach crush depth. Then all they have to worry about is hitting the ice too hard as they surface with increasing speed, but even that turns out okay as they surface where the ice is already blown apart. Craig survives as well, sinking into the ocean's depths in his capsule. He self injects the serum, knowing it is his only hope, but not realizing the one side effect. The brain remains completely alert during suspended animation. His scream is internal, but it's there.

A year later, Matt and Jennifer are married, as are Amanda and Greg. Maki is adopted by Belinda and Benny and is quickly learning English. Craig approaches madness as he wonders how long eternity really is.



Characters

Matthew Pike

Pike is a Fish and Game Officer in Alaska and has been for ten years. At six foot two, he fears little. Divorced now, Matt still wears the Inuit moosehide boots his wife made him with skills she learned from her Inuit father. He is a former Green Beret, and now is a Fish and Game officer.

Tragedy seemed to follow his life. His parents had been killed during his first year in the University of Tennessee. A home invasion had left him without resources and he had been forced to join the Army. He eventually joined the Special Forces and became a Green Beret. After a tour in Somalia, he returned to school and completed a degree in Environmental Sciences. Then he migrated to Alaska, lured by the open spaces. Now, he and Jennifer Aratuk had been divorced for three years - a direct result of the death of their son Tyler. He still blamed himself for the tragic loss that cost him everything.

Matt and Jennifer met when a conflict between native rights and the federal government had arisen over hunting for food in park lands. Though he had been representing the state on that issue, once he learned about the bare existence of the local tribes he became one of their staunchest advocates. His ability to look at the people involved behind the law won Jenny's respect and eventually her heart. They were married within a year and though her family was not thrilled with a white son in law at first, his charm and persistence combined with an outgoing nature soon won them over.

Jennifer Aratuk

Jennifer is a Sheriff for the Nunamiut and Inupiat tribes. She spends one week out of her two week vacation working the trap lines her arthritic father is no longer able to, and enjoys running her team of dogs in the wilderness. Her family cabin is located at the outskirts of the park lands, in the lowland valley. Her father is a pure blooded Inuit native, and is still allowed to hunt and trap in certain areas of the park. Her dog team is made up of rescues or strays and is a mix of Lab mixes, Sheppard crosses and Malamutes. She has a full team of sixteen in total.

Her hair is long and ebony in color. She is almost six feet tall, her French-Canadian blood from her mother giving her more height than is usual for an Inuit native. She is lean and has skin that is the color of creamed coffee and eyes that are the most expressive Matt has ever known. They can dance or smolder, be inviting or spark and he had fallen in love with them.

The loss of their son Tyler had a profound effect on all involved, and became an issue that Jenny could not forgive. While Matt hadn't been drunk, he had been drinking while he was supposed to be watching their son. Jenny had lost her mother when her father was drinking and had an accident as a result when she was sixteen. It was the kind of



epidemic alcoholism that was killing the Inuit. Knowing her devastating history, she could not forgive him when she lost her son as well. Though deep down she realized that Tyler would not have lived even had Matt been sober, the coincidence of the two alcohol related deaths are too close together for her to forgive, and while she lives with her father, she shifts the blame unconsciously for both incidents to Matt's shoulders.

Craig Teague

Craig is the sole survivor of a Cessna crash and is rescued by Matt Pike. He tells Matt he is a political reporter for the Seattle Times and that he was sent to the Ice Station to verify a story that something of importance and world interest has been discovered. His presence is the beginning of a trail of death that begins with the unsuspecting pilot who flew him into the wilds of Alaska. He wears a brand new Eddie Bauer Arctic parka, and looks to be no older than his late twenties. His hands are free of calluses, and his nails are clean and unbroken. He has a studious look and keenly assesses his surroundings. He has cautious and calculating eyes and is working on a need to know kind of environment.

After much subterfuge, it is revealed that Craig is not his real name, although the real one is never given. Code named 'Delta One', he is a CIA operative who commands the Delta Force team that is tasked with taking over the Ice Station and securing the research papers. Cold and calculating, he is willing to sacrifice anyone and anything to accomplish his mission. His mandate is to leave no witnesses, and he takes that seriously, even blowing up the Omega Base station with both civilians and Navy personnel inside. He is devious enough to ensure that it will appear as though the Russians are responsible for the incident. Jenny overhears a conversation that reveals he is actually responsible.

Craig is ruthless to the end, even sacrificing his own men to ensure his survival as he races for the pod that once held the young Inuit lad, Maki. He locks himself inside to survive the blast and survives, but the Ice Station is destroyed and the pod he is in is cracked in the explosion. He sinks into the ocean, and the air inside the pod finally balances. Now, the biggest danger is that he will freeze to death. He removes a syringe from his pocket and injects himself with the serum developed by the Russians for suspended animation. What he doesn't count on is that his mind is not suspended and he is left entirely conscious and aware of the fact that he will spend eternity at the bottom of the ocean.

Viktor Petkov

An Admiral, Viktor wears a long greatcoat with a fur cap. There are red epaulets on the caps' front and four gold stars. He smokes Cuban cigars, and has a commanding presence. Viktor has storm gray eyes and is only a year from retirement. Now, he can hardly remember being as young as the Captain is now. Viktor is tall for a submariner,



and his frame is lean and lanky. His head of hair is white which along with his demeanor has earned him the nickname of the 'White Ghost' (Beliy Prizak).

Viktor's personal demon is the Grendel. It is a source of pain, humiliation, shame and grief. It was also a large part of what made him the man he now was. He remembers his father led away at gunpoint when he was only six years old.

Viktor headed Project Shockwave which was the creation of the correct harmonic waves and heat to destroy the polar ice cap. He is entirely focused on redeeming his father and getting even for the death that he believed was caused by the Americans, but in the end he realizes that the truth was far different. In fact, Viktor's father scuttled the sub and the station himself, not wanting to reveal his research to either side, or release the Grendels. Viktor redeems himself by saving the survivors, sacrificing himself in the process.

Captain Greg Perry

Captain Perry is an honorable man who takes the weight and responsibility of his crew seriously. When faced with leaving the woman he loves behind at the Ice Station in order to save the rest, he does his duty and leaves despite how it tears at him inside. Their relationship is new to him and them, having only discovered their feelings for each other on this mission. It is a well kept secret that even Amanda's father, the Admiral is unaware of. His love for Amanda guides some of his decisions, but he is careful to keep that in consideration during critical moments. He is a responsible man whose men respect and admire him, willing to follow him into dangerous situations.

Dr. Amanda Reynolds

Amanda Reynolds lost her hearing after a car accident at the age of thirteen, but it hardly even slowed her down although her speech is slightly slurred and when she is excited, her enunciation is not as good which is characteristic of someone with this kind of 'handicap'. Her hair is often worn in an efficient ponytail, and she is as comfortable aboard the submarine as any sailor in the fleet. She was raised as a Navy brat and she designed the experimental 'Deep Eye' ice-surveying system which is a penetrating sonar or X-ray for ice.

Amanda is an American engineer with a background in geoscientific engineering. Her specialty is concentrated in the Polar Regions. Her father created Cyclops which is a foot thick of plastic which provides an alternative hull to the usual titanium and carbon plate.

Junaqaat (John) Aratuk

John is Jennifer's Inuit father and like her is as lean as a willow switch. At one time he and Matt were as close as brothers, but the death of Tyler had changed things and



hardened him to Matt although Matt never sensed any blame from the man. Instead, he blamed Matt for the period of grief born drunkenness that followed. He soon forgives Matt and welcomes him back.

He came from a seaside village along the Kotzebue Sound near the Bering Strait. It had succumbed to starvation in the freeze of 1975, and he had lost all of his relatives in that single winter.

Dr. Henry Ogden

Henry is a fifty-year-old American biologist with a background in paleobiology. He has a bald pate and the only hair on his head is a thin brown mustache and a small soul patch beneath his lower lip. Henry is stubborn and cares more about his discovery and the science than he does about his own life. When he hears the Russians are coming, instead of evacuating like he was told to, he stays behind to monitor the thawing of the Grendels he has discovered, unwilling to leave his find to the Russians and willing to bet his life that he can either avoid them or reason with them perhaps. His actions even convince some assistants to stay with them, although it isn't until after the rest have evacuated that they all discover that the Grendels are hibernating, not dead.

Bennie Hayden

Bennie has a husky frame, built squat and has eyes that look sleepy. Bennie had worked with the Sheriff's department until he had the money to start his own repair shop and move with his wife. He used the same hangar to run a sightseeing tour, flying people in ultralights over the Alaskan National Wildlife Reserve. With growing interest in oil production, and wildlife, he has expanded his fleet of one to more than a dozen. Their ultralight sightseeing company is becoming increasingly more successful.

Bennie is so in love with his wife that it is obvious to anyone who sees them together. Though his hair is thinning, the decades that separate he and his wife are not noticeable in any other ways.

Belinda Hayden

Belinda is Bennie's wife and the obvious love of his life. She is a decade younger than her husband, but has a maturity and the incredible intelligence that easily spans the gap of time. She and her entire family are native to Kaktovik although her parents made a brief move to Fairbanks when she was in her teens. Like many Inuit natives and Indians, they were anxious for their share of the wealth of the black gold rush that was just in its beginning then, abandoning their homes and customs for the promise of wealth. Instead, they found pollution, and corruption of many kinds. Belinda had become a hooker to support her family at the young age of sixteen, but she met Bennie after her first arrest. He showed her another life in the sky and eventually they married and moved back to Kaktovik with her parents in tow.



Belinda and Bennie lose their first and only child when she miscarries their daughter, and the event is a crushing blow to both. After, they discover she will be unable to have children as a result of scarring and secondary complications.

Dr. Oskar Willig

Oskar is the elder statesman of the entire Omega group and a Swedish oceanographer. His accomplishments are numerous including the Nobel Prize in 1972. He has unruly gray hair and has a distinguished look about him. His frame is wiry and he is agile and fit for his seventy years of age. He was previously a lecturer at the University of Stockholm.

Dr. Connor MacFerran

Scottish geologist and part of the Omega group, he is involved with assistant Lacy Devlin, despite a wife at home. Linda was sweet and gentle with a welcoming manner and didn't deserve the betrayal, but that didn't stop Connor. His feelings for her are genuine however, and when she goes missing, he immediately begins a search for her, even willing to go alone if he must through the crawlspace. At the last moment, Amanda joins him. Connor is the second one to meet a live Grendel face to face, but will never be able to share his thoughts about the encounter as he is left with his stomach macerated at the entrance to the beast's nest inside the crawlspace tunnels.

Lacy Devlin

Assistant to geologist Connor MacFerran, and now a geology postgrad, Lacy was once a US Olympic team speed skater in 2000 but had torn a cruciate ligament in her knee. That had effectively ended her career in speed skating. She still loved it however, and with long and smooth muscular legs, she loved the ice tunnels for the exercise she could get. She regularly donned her short track skates and flew through the tunnels once she'd marked a track.

She is involved with Connor MacFerran and his endearments keep her warm as she flies through the tunnels. Lacy is the first to encounter a live Grendel. It is also what takes her life. It chases her through the tunnels until she is lost, off the marked trails, and accidentally falls into the hole down which the beast has made a nest. There, among the bones of previous victims from the Russian crew, it adds her to the food chain.

Paul Sewell

Lieutenant Commander and head of the security team at the Omega base, Paul is civil but has a no nonsense attitude.



Grendel

The evolutionary link between whale and land mammal, a Grendel has two slitted nostrils high on its head. It weighs as much as a ton and measures up to ten feet in length. It has lips behind which are razor like teeth. It is white skinned and hairless and its body is sleek. It has shoulders that are well muscled and a domed head. It is quick, and uses teeth and claws to subdue its prey. It moves lithe and sinuous, like an otter and has black eyes. It has forelimbs with raking claws and large, webbed hind legs.

Captain Anton Mikovsky

Captain First Rank Mikovsky is the Captain of the Drakon. At thirty years of age, he is half the age of Admiral Petkov. He had just returned from a shakedown cruise on an Akula class II and now receives his first command assignment and one he takes seriously, especially with Admiral Petkov on board. His mission is to occupy the Ice Station, control it, and set up communications. Then his orders are to submerge and patrol the waters for signs of the fast attack subs that are known to patrol the polar cap depths. He was thrilled and honored to have the commission when it was granted to him, but now found himself happy that the 'White Ghost' as the Admiral was known had gone ashore.

Tom Pomautuk

Ensign with the Navy, Tom is charged with watching over Bane when Jenny, Matt, Craig and John are told they can go to the Ice Station to meet with Amanda. When the Russians take over the Omega Drift Station, Bane bolts and heads for the Otter, taking Tom with him. They hide there until Jenny and Kowalski escape and join them. Jenny recognizes his name, knowing his father from the Iditarod.

Bane

Matt's wolf / malamute cross and constant companion, gotten as a puppy when he and Jenny were still together for their son Tyler. When Tyler died, Bane went with Matt. Smart and determined, Bane is fiercely loyal. In his younger days, he was a search and rescue dog, trained to respond to both hand and voice commands.

Master Sergeant Ted Kanter

Ted is a master sergeant with Delta Forces, sent by the US to stop the Russians



Commander Sergeant Major Edwin Wilson

Major Wilson is the command sergeant major and leader of the Delta Force team assigned to the mission at the Ice Station. The mission objective, named the football, had to be attained and until then the team was in a holding pattern despite the deaths witnessed.

Makivik

The young Inuit boy who was part of the scientific experiments at the Grendel Ice Station, and the only one who is revived. He resembles Tyler to such a degree that both Matt and Jennifer mistake the youth for their son.

Joe Kowalski

Joe is an American navy seaman who doesn't like people touching his things. While his demeanor is gruff and he complains loudly about situations that don't appeal to him, he is steadfastly loyal and dependable. Despite constant obstacles, he keeps coming back to the aid of those around him. He escapes with Jenny after the Russians capture them when they are on their way to the Ice Station, and while he's grouching about the situation, he still never gives up, and never backs down. He gets soaked more than once, is chased by Grendels, left for dead outdoors and puts his life on the line countless times. He's a true Navy seaman through and through.

Lieutenant Serina Washburn

Tall for a woman, she is lean and muscular, giving the appearance of a track runner. She wears her hair in a crew cut that while stark does little to lessen her femininity. While working she is all business, and as capable as any man. She is tough and fierce, able to cope under pressure and adapt to any situation. She readily volunteers to remain in the Ice Station while the Sentinel is forced to leave, to guard the remainder of the personnel who have not evacuated. Truly brave, unselfish and unwavering in the face of danger. Washburn is fiercely protective of those around her, and equally gentle with Maki when he is left in her care.

Lietutenant Commander Roberto Bratt

Roberto's mother is Mexican, and his father is Cuban. He blames his short fuse on the fact that they were both loud and volatile. He is a lieutenant commander and the XO of the Polar Sentinel. Dependable and stalwart, Roberto is the man chosen to go to the Ice Station and clear out all personnel before the Russians arrive. He and Lieutenant Washburn remain behind when they realize some members have not made it to the



evacuation point, volunteering to see to their safety until a rescue can be mounted. Bravery and unselfish behavior are attributes they both possess.

Lieutenant Mitchell Greer

Part of the American Navy team and armed escort that delivers Matt and Craig to the Ice Station.

Petty Officer Frank O'Donnell

Driver of the sno-cat that is to deliver Matt and Craig to the Ice Station and part of the American Navy team that is accompanying the scientists.

Doug Pearlson

Doug is a seaman with the United States Military. Pearlson sacrifices his life by throwing himself on an incendiary grenade so that those who he was with might survive. A truly selfless act of bravery that saves the lives of Matt and those in his group as they flee the Russians in the Ice Station.



Objects/Places

Polar Sentinel

Name of the sub that has Cyclops built into it and acts as a research vessel. It was sent north to be put through its paces and to prove its capacity in stealth and speed.

Cyclops

Name of the plastic shell that acts as part of the Polar Sentinels hull while giving an unprecedented view of their surroundings. It is made from a canopy of Lexan glass.

Deep Eye Sonar System

First installed on the Polar Sentinel, it's job is to survey the ice under water. It is a penetrating sonar is not unlike an x-ray for ice.

White Ghost (Beliy Prizrak)

Nickname of Admiral Viktor Petkov.

Drakon

Soviet class submarine.

Grendel

Legendary monster that terrorized northern coasts until defeated by Beowulf.

Mariah

Matt's mare.

SCICEX Research Group

Scientific Ice Explorations working at Omega Drift Station.



ZCI

Zone of Comparative Inaccessibility which is the most remote part of the polar ice cap. It is the hardest place to reach and the most isolated.

Lagyaq

A meat storehouse.

Continental Divide

It is what splits the country into its watersheds. It comes from the Rocky Mountains through Canada in the south and comes down along the Brooks Range, ending at the Seward Peninsula.

Brooks Range

Part of the Continental Divide in Alaska where it splits the flow of water between those that go from north and east into the Atlantic Ocean, and those that drain south and west into the Bering Sea.

The Crawlspace

A door in Ice Station Grendel that led into the heart of the ice island. It was a maze of natural caverns and man made tunnels cored from the ice and nicknamed the Crawlspace by the scientist.

Arrigetch Peaks

Named from the Ninamiut, it means upstretched fingers of the hand and it is an apt description of this mountain range.

Devil's Pass

One of the exits from Arrigetch Peaks, it was created when an earthquake rattled the area and toppled one peak against another forming a breach underneath.

Kaktovik

A fishing village on Barter Island near to the Canadian border. The location of Benny and Belinda's ultralight sightseeing business.



Shockwave

A project headed by Viktor Petkov to provide the artificial creation of harmonic waves and heat signatures that would destabilize the northern polar ice cap.

Jamesway Huts

Cold weather versions of Quonset huts.

Polaris Array

Consisting of five identical devices, Polaris is designed to work in concert. Five devices are planted in carefully designated sites with a sixth located in the middle as the trigger. Researches under Admiral Petkov had developed the array as a way to destabilize the polar ice cap. The nuclear powered trigger was a subsonic disrupter engine and when activated it would begin with an explosion and then send out an EM pulse to trigger the five spheres. This would amplify the harmonics and shatter the polar ice cap completely.



Themes

Love Can and Will Overcome All

Matt and Jennifer have the perfect life. They live in a cabin in a remote area of Alaska, and enjoy the challenges it brings them. Jennifer is Inuit and her family is reluctant to accept Matt at first, but her father John warms to Matt's outgoing personality and persistence. Their son Tyler is the culmination of a love that is undeniable, and their happiness is reflected in everything they do. Matt is an officer with Fish and Game while Jennifer also works in law enforcement as a local Sheriff. They complement each other in every way, right up until the tragic death of Tyler.

Matt and Tyler are out together. Everything is fine one moment, and in the next moment he disappears through a weak point in the ice. There was no neglect, and Matt almost dies himself in his continuing efforts to find and rescue his son, but it is all to no avail. Their lives as a family unravel. Part of that is due to the revelation that Matt had consumed a small amount of alcohol. Jennifer had already lost her mother in a traffic accident that occurred because her father had been drinking, and while he had been sober since and she believed she had forgiven him, a certain lingering anger remained. It surfaced with a vengeance and was given to Matt. She simply couldn't forgive him. He didn't forgive himself either. Sinking deeper and deeper into depression, he drank more and more. It was a spiral that led to divorce, and a rift between Matt and the family that was as wide as it was deep.

Love is eternal however, and regardless of the pain this loss caused them both, nothing could permanently dispel the feelings they have for each other. When thrown together as a result of a series of dangerous circumstances, they each realize how fragile life is. They begin to remember all of the reasons that their love was so deep and so special. As each comes close to losing their lives, near enough to know, but too far away from each other physically to help, they both come to the conclusion that much time has been wasted and in truth, they had forgiven each other long ago. When the danger is passed, they find each other again, and learn all over again that love is stronger than anything else and will overcome all if allowed to.

Survival of the Species

The Grendels are a remarkable species. Thought to be the evolutionary link between the whale and land mammal, they are a cross between the two. An intelligent species, they use sonar to communicate and locate much like whales, but they have feet with claws and are able to survive and travel out of the water as well. In fact, in this instance, the ice cave they use as a nest is all above the water and they use a series of ice tunnels and caves to traverse it.



What makes the species remarkable, aside from their obvious link between the species, is their ability to survive. There are quite a few Grendel living in this cave, and because of its remote location and harsh environment, food is at a premium. To accommodate this lack, and still survive, they have developed a method in which they alternately hibernate. One or two will remain awake at a time in order to guard the rest of the group and to hunt for food. Survival is difficult, but manageable. After a time, another takes its place and the guards get their opportunity to hibernate. In this way, all in the group are able to feed, and to rotate time awake, while maintaining enough sustenance to assure the survival of their species.

It is a unique and miraculous adaptation that the scientists do not fully understand or appreciate until they begin to thaw the various bodies out. When thawed, they regain consciousness, and it doesn't take long before the scientists realize that they are on the menu and the entire family is hungry.

As this pocket of life exists in this remote and unforgiving place, undisturbed for decades, the scientists wonder at the possibility that more 'pockets' of this kind are out there, leading to stories passed down from generation to generation about monsters that came and took children in the night.

Science vs Sciencefiction

In *Ice Hunt*, James Rollins writes about the species called Grendels. This species is actually a clever blend of fact and fiction. The 'Ambulocetus Natans' which is also known as the walking whale has been documented and is part of our planet's fossil record. Rollins compares this creature to the Arctic wood frog which freezes solid for several months and then is able to revive itself once it is thawed. These frogs are also part of reality. They have been studied and their adaptations have been researched, in order that we might better understand the mechanism that allows them to turn sugar into a form of suspended animation. One of the most surprising facts revealed in this book is that all of the vertebrate species on the planet have the genes capable of this.

Throughout this novel, there is a premise that the United States and Russian might collaborated on a project that could have human subjects. This is also a part of our history. In 1932 the Tuskegee Syphilis Study was conducted and two hundred black men were denied treatment for their Syphilis and treated as guinea pigs. In 1935, millions died from pellagra although the Public Health Service in US was aware for more than two decades that this was caused by a niacin deficiency. In 1940, four hundred Chicago prisoners are infected with malaria to study new drugs created to combat the disease, and in 1945, project paperclip was launched as a joint Nazi/CIA. The list goes on and on.

While Rollins may have taken some creative license with the actual appearance of the Grendels and his description of the human experiments involving indigenous populations, the leap was a small one. All in all, while published as a science fiction,

Rollins is much closer to the line of truth and science than he is to the science fiction border.



Style

Point of View

Ice Hunt by James Rollins is written in an omniscient narrative. The author switches between the characters most relevant throughout the story, ranging from characters that only play small parts like Lacy Devlin who is the Grendel's first victim since the Ice Station was rediscovered to main characters like Matthew Pike, Jennifer Aratuk, or Amanda Reynolds. James Rollins doesn't limit himself, but he is consistent in his representation of these characters, so despite so many thoughts and feelings being portrayed, the central story is still consistent and easy to follow.

Rollins has a style that keeps the reader well tuned to his characters, and it is easy to become part of those he chooses to highlight emotionally. By giving voice to such a variety of characters, this novel comes to life and is a thoroughly entertaining read. Most authors might limit their point of view to their main characters or to just the protagonist and antagonist, unwilling to venture so deeply into the minds of so many characters. In most cases, they would be correct to limit themselves so as not to confuse the reader or become confused themselves. Rollins has no such issues however, and does a more than respectable job of keeping track of his characters and their representation throughout.

Setting

Ice Hunt is set almost entirely in Alaska. The story begins in Brooks Range, Alaska, where Matthew Pike works for Fish and Game. He has his camp set up and was donating his personal time to help collect samples of DNA for cataloging the park land's grizzly population. Brooks Range is where Craig Teague's plane originally crashes, and where Matt's ex-wife Jennifer and her father John live in the cabin Matt helped to build. They collectively flee this area through the Continental Divide, using Devil's Pass as their exit strategy as they head for Prudhoe Bay. When landing there becomes impossible, they land in Kaktovik where Benny and Belinda help them with fuel, food and advice. This is where Benny and Belinda own and operate their ultralight sightseeing business. They are forced to continue to the Omega Drift Station which is located in the ZCI region of the polar ice cap.

A good deal of the story also occurs under the polar ice cap, divided between the two submarines. The Russian sub, Drakon, and the American research sub, Polar Sentinel go back and forth between Ice Station Grendel and the Omega Drift Station thirty miles away. While there is brief reference made to Craig's employer, the Seattle Times, none of the story takes place there. There is also a brief communication with Admiral Reynolds who monitors the situation from his home base, very little of the story occurs there.



Language and Meaning

Ice Hunt is written in straight forward English language. There is a good deal of scientific reference made involving the research being done at the Ice Station but despite occasional forays into descriptive science, it is not confusing or overly technical, and is easy for the reader to follow. There are passages devoted to cryogenics, and to the research the Russians did including experimentation, but they are well described and defined, lending an authenticity to the story that would otherwise be lacking.

There is also some discussion of the history and evolution of the species called Grendels or walking whales, and how they fit in the evolutionary framework. Passages are devoted to their ability to survive, their intelligence and cunning, the adaptations made in order for the species to continue despite great odds against them, and their hibernation patterns. These also lend an authenticity to the story without becoming overly technical in their descriptions or language.

This novel is played out largely aboard two submarines as well, so there are references to the armament of the Drakon and the research capabilities of the Polar Sentinel. Each has its unique attributes or directives. The Drakon places the Polaris Array on its way to the Ice Station and it is well covered in simple language, and the Polar Sentinel uses experimental Sonar techniques and communications/listening capabilities that are used and referred to in some detail in places. Again, this is done without overly technical descriptions and is easy for the lay person to follow and absorb.

Structure

Ice Hunt by James Rollins is divided into three acts. Act one covers the first four chapters. Titled 'Snow Flight', it deals with Craig's plane crash and subsequent rescue by Matt. The snow flight begins when those responsible for the crash seek to finish the job and ensure the deaths of all aboard. Matt and Craig flee the area, followed by well trained and heavily armed men who have resources at their disposal. The snow flight continues when Matt and Craig go to the only place Matt knows they may find help. They are not well received by his former family, but Jennifer puts aside her anger to help them, and even her father finds forgiveness for Matt during this time.

The entire group is forced to flee when the men chasing them find them there. This part of the snow flight is a dangerous flight through the Arrigetch Peaks in Brooks Range. Jenny competently takes them through and around the peaks in her twin Otter while a Cessna gives chase until she is forced to blind the pilot with a dip through the water during a daring escape through Devil's Pass.

Act two is five chapters long. Titled 'Fire and Ice', it covers the escapees as they seek refuge. They fly to Prudhoe Bay first, but just as they are arriving, the town is set ablaze beginning with a spectacular explosion. An anonymous tip pegs their approaching aircraft as the likely saboteurs, further complicating their ability to find somewhere safe. With little fuel and few choices, they head towards the only refuge within range - the

Drift Station situated near the Grendel Ice Station. When they arrive, they are flying on reserve tanks with no choice but to land. The welcome is less than friendly though, as word of the explosions at Prudhoe Bay has reached even this remote station. They are taken into custody at the Ice Station.

Act Three is eight chapters in length and titled, 'Feeding Frenzy'. This act takes us through the nightmarish revival of the Grendel species at the Ice Station. Having hibernated alternatively for decades, when all are revived accidentally, they are hungry and pleased to find that so much prey is finding its way directly into their lair. The chase is one as one group after another seeks refuge in the crawlspace of tunnels that is the home to the Grendel.



Quotes

"It's not the cold that kills, it's the wind." Chp 2, Pg 36
Inuit proverb.

"We're heading to somewhere even more dangerous." Chp 2, Pg. 69
Matt to Craig after they eluded the men chasing them.

"This is going to get ugly." Chp 3, Pg 88
Jenny to Matt, Craig and John as she tries to avoid the Cessna on their tail.

"It is estimated to have existed some forty-nine million years ago, then died out some thirty-six million years ago." Chp 4, Pg 120
Dr. Henry Ogden to Amanda as he explains the existence of the evolutionary link from whales to mammals that they have discovered.

"Something's gonna happen out there... something no one wants the world to know about." Chp 5, Pg 133
Craig to Matt, Jenny and John after they witness the explosions at Prudhoe Bay.

"Whether Matt had been stone-cold sober or not, Tyler would still be dead." Chp 5, Pg 143
Bennie to Jennifer trying to make her face reality and realize she and Matt still love each other.

"I wasn't given any specifics about my destination... just told to pack my bag, then shoved on the first Alaska Airlines flight leaving Seattle." Chp 6, Pg 154
Craig to Matt when Matt asks him for more information about the Omega base.

"We've recorded some activity from the thawing specimens." Chp. 8, Pg. 228
Dr. Ogden to Commander Bratt as they discuss why Ogden didn't evacuate when he was warned to.

"We've come all the way here to warn them, and they've already rolled up shop." Chp. 8, Pg 235
Matt to Greer when they finally make it on the Sno Cat to the Ice Station.

"It's becoming clearer and clearer that the Russians' mission here is a plunder-and-purge." Chp. 10, Pg 255
Commander Sewell to Kowalski as they discuss the Russians' intentions.

"They were waiting for this blackout window to open so they could proceed free of spying eyes." Chp 12, Pg 331
Charles Langley of NRO to Admiral Reynolds as he explains the current situation at the Ice Station.



"We will not let the Americans steal the prize here.... even if it cost all our lives, that must not happen." Chp 13, Pg 341

Viktor to his Lieutenant as he instructs him to prime the Polaris device.

"The guardians must change shift every few years, slipping into slumber themselves to rest and allowing a new member to take over." Chp 15, Pg 385

Dr. Ogden explaining to Amanda how the Grendels have survived in their ice nest all this time.

"With war pending, world tensions high, the ability to preserve life on the battlefield could make a difference between victory and defeat." Chp 16, Pg 419

Viktor Petkov to Matt as he explains the atmosphere surrounding his father's research days in the Ice Station.

"In twenty-nine minutes, the world ends." Chp 17, Pg 472

Petkov to Matt and the rest of the captives.

"We've been rats in the walls ever since the attack started." Chp 18, Pg 478

Kowalski to Matt after he rescues them from Level Four.

"How long...how long is eternity?" Epilogue, Pg 505

Craig to himself at the bottom of the ocean.



Topics for Discussion

What was the issue that caused the end of the marriage between Matthew Pike and Jennifer Aratuk? How did the incident in question so profoundly affect them that they were unable to face it together? Was this issue overcome, and if so, how?

What were the Grendels? How was it possible for them to survive? How was their evolutionary link explained by Dr. Henry Ogden? What was so important about this evolutionary link?

How is Admiral Viktor Petkov related to the Russian Ice Base Grendel? Why is he sent on this mission? What are the exact parameters of his mission according to Moscow? What is acknowledged by both sides but not publicly? Why is there such a need for secrecy?

What ulterior plan does Admiral Viktor Petkov have? How does it relate to a project he was in charge of many years previously? What is the outcome if he manages to succeed? Why would he wish to do something so permanent?

What compels Amanda to bring the group of visitors from Omega Base to the Ice Station? What part of the group is she most interested in, and why? What does she hope to accomplish by confining them all to the Ice Station while the storm rages? How will Captain Perry feel about her decision?

Who is the first to discover that the Grendels are still alive by stumbling into their nest? How is this discovery made and what are the consequences? A two member search party soon finds the nest as well. What happens?

The Russians take over Omega base. How do they announce themselves, and why is contact made in this manner? What is the mission that the Russians have and what are they hoping to keep secret?

What does everyone discover about Craig that surprises them? What atrocities is he willing to commit, or does commit for his cause?

Amanda and Jennifer both conduct spectacular escapes. How are they carried out? What is the personal cost that these two women share?

What does Viktor finally realize about his father's fate?

How does Viktor redeem himself? What is his ultimate act of selflessness?

What does Amanda do to interrupt the Polaris Array?

How do Matt and the remaining survivors escape the blast that takes out the Ice Station?



How did John and the rest of the survivors with him manage to escape the blast at Omega Drift Station?

What was Craig's final act of selfishness? How does it backfire?