

1665

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THE THING

WINCHESTER PICTURES CORP.

THE THING

Adapted from the short story WHO GOES
THERE? by John W. Campbell.

First Draft Screenplay

Property of: Winchester Pictures Corp.

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#47

FADE IN

1 EXT. NIGHT

The snow piled streets of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. A wind blows. The street is empty. A bundled figure moves through the street toward a low roofed lighted building.

A sign outside the building reads:

"OFFICER'S CLUB, DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA"

Someone has scribbled the words under the printing "No Penguins allowed".

The figure stops in the doorway and looks at a long thermometer. It registers twenty-five below zero. The figure continues into the club.

2 INT. OFFICERS CLUB ROOM - MIDNIGHT

This is the social center for U.S.A. flying men roosting in the Polar regions. The air base is near Dutch Harbor, Alaska - a commuting hop from the Arctic Circle. It is early winter. The night in Dutch Harbor is long and dark.

In the room two of the six gaming tables are occupied. At one sits a four handed bridge game. At the other sit five men playing poker. RADIO MUSIC - an American Service Broadcast - is coming a bit feebly into the room. All is cozy and steam-heated in the room.

Among the five poker players are three men who are to be active in our story. One is W.O. Vic MacAuliff. He is a tough, taciturn radio man. He has seen service everywhere, heard nearly all the languages and drunk nearly all the different brews of the earth.

The second is Captain Pat Henry, in his early thirties. Captain Henry has been a flyer since he shed his first stocking cap. He is a man of whimsey and temper and also mood.

The third is Lieutenant Eddie Dykes, a tall, homely man under thirty.

The overcoats, boots, ear-lapped military hats of the aviators lie on an unused table nearby.

(CONTINUED)

2 (CONTINUED)

EDDIE DYKES

(as he shuffles
and deals)

It was about a hundred and five
in the shade in this place. The
women didn't wear any clothes at
all to speak of - which was very
intelligent of them. You lay in
a hammock and three of them stood there
fanning you. When I die, I hope
to go to Accra.

MACAULIFF

I was there.

HENRY

(looking at
his hand)

I open for one dollar.

PLAYER

I stay.

PLAYER

I'm out.

MACAULIFF

Going up.

He puts two chips on the table.

EDDIE

Scotland strikes again. I'm
in. Cards, gentlemen.

Two other players add another chip each to the pot.

HENRY

Three.

PLAYERS

Three.

MACAULIFF

These'll do.

The figure has entered the room and is surveying the
poker players as it removes its wrappings. He is Ned
Skeely, a newspaper correspondent.

HENRY

Hello, Skeely, how are you?

(CONTINUED)

SKEELY

Faintly alive. Twenty-five below
and going down. It's a night for
brass monkeys.

HENRY

Care to join us?

SKEELY

As soon as I count my fingers.
I may have lost some.

HENRY

I think you know everybody here.

Players smile and say "sure."

MACAULIFF

I haven't met the gentleman, Captain.

HENRY

Ned Skeely - Angus MacAuliff.

MACAULIFF

How do you do, sir.

EDDIE

Mr. Skeely's a newspaper man, Mac.
We're going to put on a snow ball
fight for him tomorrow.

Skeely takes a seat next
to Eddie

HENRY

(returning to the play)
One dollar is bet.

EDDIE

Against a pat hand held by a
Scotchman. Captain Henry, your
decorations for valor have gone
to your head. I'm folding.

MACAULIFF

Call.

HENRY

A pair of aces.

(CONTINUED)

MACAULIFF

Beats two queens.

EDDIE

(to MacAuliff)

You ought to know better than to try fooling my pal. Only dames can do that.

HENRY

(quietly)

I promised you a kick in the belly.

EDDIE

(mockingly)

Forgive. Forgive. A slip of the tongue.

HENRY

(to Skeely)

How'd you make out with General Fogarty?

SKEELY

Your general is nursing his secrets like a June bride.

MACAULIFF

Deal 'em out, lieutenant.

EDDIE

You in, Mr. Skeely?

SKEELY

Yes. I am always interested in pauperizing the air force.

EDDIE

(dealing)

I've got a big idea that involves you, Mr. Skeely. You're not going to get any story out of this post. Fogarty has given us all instructions to treat you like a Russian spy.

SKEELY

General Fogarty is going to end up on his knees begging for my attention.

EDDIE

(intently)

This is more practical, Mr. Skeely. There's a man in Edmonton who can give you the whole Radar defense story. Loves to talk. General MacLaren. You tell the General you want to get to Edmonton - and Pat and I'll fly you there.

2 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

I know General MacLaren. He bores me.

EDDIE

(desperately)

Don't be like that! It's warm in Edmonton! They've got girls in Edmonton! Without fur pants on!

SKEELY

(to Henry)

How about it, Captain?

HENRY

Let's play cards.

MACAULIFF

(to Eddie)

Ye ought to know better than to try and shoo our captain southward - with his heart wrapped around the North Pole.

HENRY

That'll do, Mr. MacAuliff.

MACAULIFF

(grinning)

I open - for two dollars.

SKEELY

(casually, as they play)

What's going on at the North Pole?

EDDIE

Some scientists are holding a convention there. Looking for Polar bear tails. Ever hear of Dr. Carrington?

SKEELY

The fellow who was at Bikini?

EDDIE

The same.

HENRY

They're holed in about two thousand miles north of here, a lot of botanists and physicists.

(CONTINUED)

2 (CONTINUED)

EDDIE

(solemnly)

Including a pin-up girl. Very interesting type. Captain Henry can give you any data on her you want.

HENRY

(looking at his cards and speaking quietly to Eddie)

Someday I hope to have a co-pilot a cut above a high school boy - or at least dry behind his ears -

A voice comes over the P.A. speaker.

VOICE

Captain Henry. Captain Pat Henry. Report to General Fogarty's quarters at once, please.

Henry rises from the table.

SKEELY

(frowning and serious)

Twelve thirty and a general yelling for his troops. Sounds like the old days.

Henry starts putting on his overcoat.

DISSOLVE TO:

3

INT. GENERAL FOGARTY'S QUARTERS. NIGHT

A living room with a fire going in the fire place. The room is fairly well furnished. Some war trophies are on the wall, including a piece of a Japanese aeroplane, a Jap sword, and other important war souvenirs.

Three men are in the room. One is General Fogarty, in his forties; the second is the adjutant of the post, Major Smith. The third is Corporal Hauser from the post's communication center.

FOGARTY

(to Corporal Hauser)

If any more messages come in from that base I want to be notified personally, no matter what time. Tell the O. D.

(CONTINUED)

3 (CONTINUED)

CORPORAL

Yes, sir.

There is a knock on the door.

FOGARTY

Come in.

The door opens and a blast of freezing air hits the room as Captain Henry enters. He closes the door.

HENRY

Good evening, sir.

Corporal Hauser opens the door and exits, letting another blast of cold into the room. The General shivers, scowls and grumbles.

FOGARTY

(shivering)

Freddie, any chance of the Pentagon sending us a revolving door?

MAJOR

Could be. We got a gross of pith helmets last week.

FOGARTY

(to Henry)

I've got something queer here from your picnic party up north. Just came in.

(he reads from a paper)

Believe air ship unusual type crashed in our vicinity. Please send facilities to investigate. Most urgent.

(he looks up)

It's from Dr. Carrington. What's it sound like to you, Pat?

HENRY

I think I'd better hop up.

FOGARTY

(dryly)

I knew you'd say that. But what do you think you'll find, besides your lady friend?

HENRY

(quietly)

I don't know. Any of our ships reported missing?

(CONTINUED)

MAJOR

Not a one.

HENRY

Could be a Russky. They're all over the Pole, like flies.

FOGARTY

(smiling)

Don't get nervous. You're going. When a double dome like Professor Carrington says "most urgent", small people like us have to jump. Better take a dog team and everything you might need for rescue work.

HENRY

I'll take off at 4:30.

MAJOR

What's the weather, Pat?

HENRY

There's a bad front moving in. But I think there's enough time to get there and back without bumping into it.

FOGARTY

You can do me a favor, Pat.

HENRY

Yes, sir.

FOGARTY

Take that newspaper fella up with you - and maroon him there.

HENRY

I'll invite him.

FOGARTY

And don't get me wrong about who gets marooned, Captain Henry. I would appreciate it if you didn't smash a landing ski and find it necessary to twiddle your thumbs for a week while it's being repaired.

HENRY

(coldly)

That accident was unavoidable, sir.

FOGARTY

So was Romeo and Juliet. I'll expect you back tomorrow night - with or without Mr. Skeely. Good luck.

INT. C-54 PLANE. IT IS FLYING THROUGH A DIMLY LIT SKY. BELOW ARE CLOUD BANKS.

4 In the plane are W. O. MacAuliff, Ned Skeely, Navigator Lieutenant Ken Ericson and Light Engineer Corporal Barnes. Captain Henry is flying the ship, Lieut. Dykes is beside him. MacAuliff is at his radio instrument.

A dozen huskies and several sleds are in the plane, plus a pile of other cargo tied down under tarpaulin.

SKEELY

How far are we from camp?

HENRY

Three hours. We've slowed down. There's a breeze blowing.

EDDIE DYKES

(grimly)

A breeze, he says. It's hitting forty miles. But you'll find that our captain has some funny ideas about the North Pole. He thinks it's a garden spot. Come and bring the kiddies.

HENRY

(grimly)

You're yapping is out of order, Eddie. I'm not going to tell you again -

EDDIE

Always squawking - that's me! And for no reason! Shackleton went to the North Pole once - and retired with a bag full of medals. I got to go there every three weeks - like it was lover's lane.

HENRY

(coldly)

I'd like you to get this straight, Mr. Skeely, if you write anything. I'm liaison officer between our post and the Carrington outfit. These flights are strictly official. Usually bring in supplies. They're charting magnetic currents, growing new kinds of polar plants, looking for minerals.

CONTINUED

4 (CONTINUED)

EDDIE

That's right, Skeely. I was only kidding. It's a terrific outfit. The biggest collection of double domes ever got together on an ice cake.

MACAULIFF

(to the talkers)

Something's coming through.

Henry, Eddie and Navigator Ericson put on their head phones and listen.

EDDIE

(listening to the ear phones)

Somebody's gooped up!

HENRY

(removing ear phones)

Give me a new reading, Ken.

KEN

I can't understand it.

SKEELY

Who was that?

HENRY

The radio man, Hendrix - talking for Carrington. He wants us to correct our compass reading twelve points East. A magnetic disturbance is whacking away at everything.

KEN

(working)

This is no place to make a mistake, Pat. We were bee-lining for the place. Hadn't we better get them back.

HENRY

No. Carrington doesn't make mistakes. We'll follow ground instructions.

DISSOLVE TO:

5

INT. PLANE. A VIEW FAR BELOW OF THE SPRAWLING POLAR SETTLEMENT.

(CONTINUED)

5 (CONTINUED)

Small dots of roofs on a flat expanse of snow.
The plane starts descending.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT POLAR PROJECT CAMP - DAY

The C-54 makes a landing on skis some two hundred feet from the largest of the low looming buildings. The arrivals drop out of the plane door.

A half dozen Eskimo workers belonging to the camp hurry toward them.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 INT. LARGE ASSEMBLY ROOM OF POLAR EXPEDITION

It is 80 per cent underground. It's windows are near the ceiling and function as transoms for light.

The room is comfortably furnished and warm. It's steam pipes run along the wall.

In the room are Dr. Chapman, Dr. Algari and Mrs. Chapman.

Chapman is a forceful looking man in his forties. His wife is a good looking woman of forty who is also his assistant. Chapman is a minerologist. Algari is an elderly man, white haired. He is a botanist.

A male cook stands at a large electric stove. He is cooking coffee and a hot lunch in a number of pots. Chapman walks up the stairs to the door, which is near the top of the room. He opens it.

Captain Henry and his group come down the stairs.

CHAPMAN

Very pretty landing, Captain.
We watched it. How was the trip?

HENRY

Nice ride. This is Mr. Skeely,
Dr. Chapman, Mrs. Chapman, Dr.
Algari. Mr. Skeely's a newspaperman.

CONTINUED

7 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

Glad to know you.

CHAPMAN

(smiling)

Glad to have a newspaperman drop
in on us. We're a bit off the
beaten track.'

SKEELY

(looking around)

Don't tell me I'm practically
at the North Pole! Looks more
like my old Kentucky home.

HENRY

Any further information, Dr.
Chapman?

CHAPMAN

I'm convinced it's some sort of
Russian air craft. Probably some
new jet propelled rocket.

ALGARI

I very much doubt that, Hugo.
I don't understand Russian
science, but it can't be as
far advanced as the indications
we have from the crashed ship.

CHAPMAN

If it is a ship. We're all
quite excited, Captain.

HENRY

Where's Dr. Carrington?

CHAPMAN

In the lab.

MRS. CHAPMAN

They'll all be here for lunch.
It's ready - if you'd like to
eat first. Fresh vegetables

HENRY

(to Skeely)

From their own garden.

SKEELY

Garden?

MRS. CHAPMAN

(smiling)

Hothouse.

(CONTINUED)

7 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

You have a hothouse! At the Pole!

EDDIE

(winking at
Skeely)

They've got everything here.
Wait till you see.

HENRY

I'll join you in a few minutes.

ALGARI

I'll take you to the lab, Captain.

HENRY

Thanks. I know the way.

He starts out of the room.

MRS. CHAPMAN

Please sit down, everybody.

The group moves toward a long refectory table set with
twenty places. We follow Captain Henry out.

8 INT. A CONNECTING UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR BETWEEN TWO OF
THE CAMP BUILDINGS

Henry enters it and walks toward a steep stairway. He
climbs it and knocks on a door. A voice calls.

VOICE

Come in.

He opens the door.

9 INT. NIKKI'S OFFICE AND SLEEPING QUARTERS

A small office-like room, lined with filing cabinets,
holding a desk, a typewriter stand, a voice recording
machine, and a couch that serves as a bed, is revealed.
Sitting at the desk, typing, is a vivid, young woman,
Alberta Nicholson. She is called Nikki. She stops
typing and rises.

NIKKI

Pat! Welcome to our igloo!

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(smiling)

Hello, Nikki. You look like seven million dollars. How are you?

NIKKI

Wonderful. Sit down.

HENRY

I talk better standing.

He steps up to her and embraces her ardently. She pulls out of his embrace, calmly, and without alarm.

NIKKI

Please.

(she straightens her hair)

I think Dr. Carrington is waiting for you.

HENRY

Dr. Carrington will have to wait. I'm busy.

He tries to embrace her again.

NIKKI

(evading him)

No, you're not.

HENRY

(frowning)

What's the matter?

NIKKI

Now, don't act surprised. We've been all through this before. I don't like promiscuous love making. It's meaningless.

HENRY

Who's promiscuous? We're alone, aren't we?

NIKKI

Pat, last time you were here, I spent three days wrestling with a typical air corps wolf. It was like playing puss-in-the-corner with Bluebeard or somebody. You even invaded my bedroom, claiming you were looking for a lost pocketknife. Now, I'm fond of you, Pat, but this time, if you don't keep your hands to yourself, we're through.

HENRY

You're fond of me, eh? Well, I'm fond of you, too. What are we waiting for?

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

We're waiting until we get to know each other.

HENRY

(grinning)

Now you're on my side. Come here. You'll get to know me.

NIKKI

(pushing him away)

Not that way.

HENRY

What other way is there?

NIKKI

(desperately)

Didn't you ever hear the word "conversation"? Didn't you ever read a book, or see a movie - or - or think about anything?

HENRY

Yeah. But you don't want to talk about what I'm thinking.

NIKKI

No, I don't. If that's all you can think!

HENRY

I got other thoughts.

NIKKI

It would be an entrancing diversion to hear one.

HENRY

Well, try this one. Dames are all alike.

NIKKI

That's not a thought. It's a cliché. And a stupid cliché.

HENRY

All dames want to get married. If you ask them to marry you, you're sincere. If you don't you're Bluebeard, and a wolf.

NIKKI

(dangerously)

Are you saying I want you to ask me to marry you?

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

Never could figure them out. If you buy a dame one meal and try to kiss her, you're a wolf and a Bluebeard. But if the same fellow promises to buy her thirty thousand meals, then he's a prospective husband and he couldn't beat her off with a stick.

NIKKI

Yes, and tell a fellow your garter belt is your own business, and he'll think of every mean, stinking thing in the world to say back to you!

HENRY

(calmly)

That's the war of the sexes, I guess.

NIKKI

Well, I hate war!

HENRY

On the other hand, it's my business. I got a commission. Gimme a kiss, Nikki.

NIKKI

I'm tired of you. Now, come on. Doctor Carrington's eager to see you.

HENRY

(gloomily)

Okay. Lead on, Miss Nicholson. I guess I came to the wrong Pole.

He follows her out.

DISSOLVE

10 INT. DR. CARRINGTON'S LABORATORY

This is a large chamber in a separate building. Here are concentrated the instruments used by the various scientists in their astronomical, mineralogical and botanical experiments.

(CONTINUED)

10 (CONTINUED)

At a large flat-topped table in the room sits Dr. Arthur Carrington. He is a man of 43 with an alert, cheerful face. He is good looking, well built, soft spoken. His dominant characteristic is a smile that seems never to leave his lips. It is present always on his face like an extra feature. He is a genius of science and a man whose brain is focused like a microscope on the secrets of nature. But the intensity of his preoccupation with science is not to be heard in the easy tones of his voice. It will be seen in the things he does, in his point of view - but never in his manner. Outwardly, he seems only a good looking man full of child-like enthusiasm for a task and with a soothing, amiable way for his fellow man.

In the room with Dr. Carrington is a lean young man named William Stone, in charge of the camp's photographic work and equipment.

Captain Henry stands silently in the doorway, his eyes moodily on his scientific rival. The doctor is studying the indicator dials of a complex instrument on the table. Bill Stone greets the arrivals.

STONE

Hello, Nikki. Hello, Captain Henry. How was the trip?

HENRY

(shortly)

O. K.

He remains staring at the preoccupied Carrington who seems aware neither of his or Nikki's presence.

NIKKI

(quietly)

Captain Henry is here, doctor.

CARRINGTON

(without looking up,
his voice amiable)

Yes, I know.

(his eyes stay on the indicator
dials and he continues softly)

Would you take these notes, please.

(he dictates to Nikki quietly.

She writes as he speaks)

November second, 2 p.m. Deflection on screen nineteen continues - twelve point three. No lessening or wavering of disturbing element.

(CONTINUED)

10 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON (cont'd)
 (he looks up and smiles
 at Henry and adds softly)
 Can we start now, Captain Henry?

HENRY
 (coolly)
 Mind telling me where we're going?

CARRINGTON
 Forty-eight miles due east.

HENRY
 Your message said an aeroplane
 had crashed. Is that what we're
 looking for?

CARRINGTON
 (smiling)
 I don't know, Captain.

HENRY
 (covering his irritation
 with difficulty)
 I'd like to know what I'm supposed
 to go looking for, Dr. Carrington.

CARRINGTON
 (gently)
 So would I.
 (eagerly)
 I think we should start while
 the light holds.

HENRY
 (without moving)
 We'll start after you've given me
 what information you've got.

CARRINGTON
 (softly)
 Is that necessary, Captain?
 (he sees Henry's scowl
 and is quickly contrite)
 I'm very sorry. I was thinking
 only of the vagueness of my
 information. I dislike being
 vague. Will you please read
 Captain Henry my first notes,
 Nikki?

(CONTINUED)

10 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(opening the note book in
her hand and reading from
it)

November 1, 11:15 p.m. Sound detectors registered explosion due east. 11:18 p.m. magnetic dial revealed twelve point three deflection. Such deflection possible only if a disturbing force equivalent to 20,000 tons of steel or iron ore had become part of the earth within fifty mile radius.

HENRY

That sounds like a meteor, doesn't it?

CARRINGTON

(amiably)

Yes, very much. Except for our photographic plates. Our telescopic cameras were working last night. Here is the film taken between 11:12 and 11:15. Let Captain Henry see it, Bill.

Stone switches on a light in a moviola box and runs a strip of film slowly through it. Captain Henry looks into the box.

CARRINGTON

You will note the small dot low on the film. It is moving from west to east. At 11:14 the dot moves upward. At 11:15 it drops to the earth and vanishes. A meteor might move almost horizontally from west to east, but never upward. If the traveling object caused the explosion we picked up, it is in the ice 48 miles from here. The sound reached us four minutes after the object's disappearance. This gives us the approximate distance from here.

HENRY

(frowning)

Twenty thousand tons of steel is a lot of metal for an aeroplane.

CARRINGTON

For the sort of aeroplane we know, Captain.

HENRY

(abruptly)

Come on, let's get going.

He walks out followed by Carrington, Stone and Nikki.

DISSOLVE TO:

11 INT. C-54 PLANE

Captain Henry and Lieutenant Dykes are at the controls. The rest of the crew are in their accustomed places. A dog sled and a dog-team occupy the rear of the passenger cabin.

Flight Engineer Barnes is scanning the snowscape below. So are Photographer Stone and the scientists Olson, Chapman, Vorrhees, Laurenz and Redding. Skeely is also peering avidly out of the window. There is an air of tension to the silence.

Only Dr. Carrington seems relaxed. He shares a seat with Nikki.

From time to time Captain Henry turns around to scowl at Nikki and Carrington.

NIKKI

(eagerly to her companion)
I'm terribly excited, Arthur! I'm jumping up and down inside!

CARRINGTON

(softly)
So am I.

NIKKI

(laughing)
If the world were coming to an end, I don't think you'd change your expression, Arthur. You'd keep smiling - and dictating notes - and expect me to take them down accurately.

CARRINGTON

(nodding)
And you would.

Captain Henry has risen and left Dykes at the controls. He has walked back to Carrington and stood there waiting grimly for their talk to end. He speaks up now with irritation.

HENRY

We're fifty miles out, Doctor, and not a sign of anything. Those gadgets of yours must be screwy.

CARRINGTON

(amiably)
I doubt it, Captain. They've exhibited no signs of lunacy in the past.

(CONTINUED)

11 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(to Henry)
You must be off your course.

HENRY

(to Carrington, insistently,
ignoring Nikki)
We haven't seen anything, have we?
What does that mean?

CARRINGTON

(amiably)
It means we haven't seen it. It doesn't
mean it isn't there.

Henry's response is interrupted
by a cry from Dykes.

DYKES

Hey, Pat! Look at this! The compass
is turning around!

HENRY

(starting forward)
What the holy --

CARRINGTON

(calmly)
We've passed it.
(calling to Dykes)
When did it start turning, Lieutenant?

DYKES

Just now -- fifteen seconds ago.

CARRINGTON

(to Nikki)
Mark the time, please.
(to Dykes)
Is it a complete revolution?

DYKES

Yep. Hundred and eighty degrees.

CARRINGTON

(to Henry)
Then we flew right over it about a
mile and three eights back.

HENRY

(curtly)
Thanks.
(he calls to the cockpit)
Spin it around Eddie, and take
her down low.

(CONTINUED)

11 (CONTINUED)

Henry returns to the cockpit. Carrington follows him and stands gazing out over his shoulder.

12 LONG SHOT OF ICE FIELD FROM SHIP'S POINT OF VIEW

A dark patch in the ice appears.

13 INT. COCKPIT

CARRINGTON AND DYKES

(together)

There - I see it - over there!

DYKES

It's buried in the ice.

HENRY

(peering at the ground)

What do you think, Eddie?

DYKES

(pointing)

Looks pretty smooth over there -

HENRY

(nodding)

Fasten your seat belts, folks. We're going to land.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 THE ICE PLANE

The C-54 lands gracefully on its skis. Its occupants disembark. Barnes and Dykes start hitching up the dog team.

NIKKI

(standing on tiptoe)

I can't see it from here.

HENRY

It's that way. About a half mile.

(CONTINUED)

14 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON
A little more south, I believe.

NIKKI
Oh, I hope we don't lose it.

CARRINGTON
(smiling at her
eagerness)
Hardly.

MACAULIFF
This'll lead us right to it.

He holds up a Geiger counter.

CARRINGTON
(surprised)
A Geiger counter. But there's
no reason to suppose it's
radioactive.

MACAULIFF
It is, though. I noticed in
the plane. See?

He holds up the counter. It clicks steadily.

DYKES
All set, folks.

HENRY
(to Nikki)
You ride on the sled.

Nikki gets on the sled. It starts off, the rest of the
party trotting along in its tracks.

DISSOLVE TO

15 THE ICE PLAIN NEAR THE DARK PATCH

The sled stops. Nikki gets off and runs with the others
to the dark patch. They stand looking down at it from a
little hillock of snow and ice.

BARNES
That's no aeroplane.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

OLSON

It's certainly not a meteor.

MACAULIFF

Whatever it is, how in the holy name of Aberdeen, did it get in there? Look, the ice is smooth as glass.

There is a little chorus of agreement and wonder.

HENRY

This is the craziest thing I ever saw!

CARRINGTON

Not really.

HENRY

(over polite)

Perhaps you'll be good enough to explain the little mystery to all us ordinary people.

CARRINGTON

(staring at the dark patch)

Anything hitting the earth's atmosphere at an astronomical speed would be white hot in an instant. It would melt its way into the ice which would then freeze over it again.

Skeely and Barnes have moved to another hillock to get a better view of the buried object. Suddenly Skeely lets out a yell.

SKEELY

(at the top of his lungs)

IT'S A SAUCER! IT'S A FLYING SAUCER!

There is an instant's silence. They all stare into the ice.

OLSON

(softly)

Bless my soul, that's what it is!

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

AD LIB

A saucer!
 A flying disc!
 Sure, look from over here - see?
 A real, honest-to-God saucer!
 See the direction vanes...
 They said there were no such things...
 D'yā suppose there's anyone in it?
 Must be ... Sure...

SKEELY

(jumping with excitement)
 Axes! Get some ice-axes!

Barnes and Dykes run for axes.

STONE

Stand back, everybody! Let me
 get some pictures!

SKEELY

(wildly, as Stone
 starts photographing)
 Where's the radio operator!
 Hey, MacAuliff!
 (MacAuliff turns
 to him)
 Scotty, come on, quick! I
 want to send a message!

HENRY

(interrupting)
 Nothing doing. No private
 messages.

SKEELY

What dō you mean, private! I'm
 going to send it to the whole
 world!

HENRY

Sorry, Skeely. This is Army
 information. I'll have to wait
 for authority to let you file a
 story.

SKEELY

(beside himself)
 You've got your authority from
 the Constitution of the United
 States! It's called freedom of
 the press! I'm sending my story,
 Captain!

HENRY

All right, send it. But not from
my ship.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

Skeely glares at him in frustrated fury. Henry ignores Skeely's rage, and turns to MacAuliff.

HENRY (cont'd)

Call Hendrix..Have him wire Fogarty we've found a flying disc - intact - imbedded in the ice - and we're going to get it out!

MACAULIFF

Yes, sir.

He starts for the plane - Skeely at his heels.

SKEELY

(urgently)

Looky, Scotty! This is the biggest story since the Red Sea! A ship from another planet! You can't cover it up! Have a heart! Think what this means to the world!

MACAULIFF

I'm not working for the world. I'm working for the army, and I've got my orders.

SKEELY

(furiously)

Even the Russians wouldn't act like this!

He starts back toward Captain Henry.

OLSON

(to Carrington)

What do you make of that, Arthur? It certainly doesn't look like 20,000 tons of steel.

CARRINGTON

Not even a ton, I'd say.

During the above, axes have arrived. Five of the men start hacking feverishly through the ice. Nikki stands beside Carrington. Captain Henry joins the men chopping on the ice. The little group on the wind-swept snow work silently and desperately to remove the four feet covering of ice from the saucer.

CHAPMAN

(coming up to Carrington)

What do you think it's made of, Arthur?

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

No element we know on this earth.

NIKKI

(excitedly)

I don't see any door or windows in it.

CARRINGTON

They must be underneath.

OLSON

(peering)

I can't make out any engine.

CARRINGTON

I doubt if we'll find anything we call an engine.

SKEELY

(arriving out of breath)

What planet do you figure it's from, Doctor?

CARRINGTON

Not this one.

SKEELY

Must be Mars. That's the only one that's supposed to be inhabited, isn't it?

CARRINGTON

I'll be able to answer your questions a little more accurately after I've examined the interior of the craft and its occupants, if any.

Skeely grabs an axe and runs toward the chopping group.

NIKKI

Occupants! They must be dead, though!

CARRINGTON

Dead or alive - we'll learn a great many things we don't know in the world, now.

The group is swinging axes. Captain Henry suddenly stops digging. He looks up at the sun, looks at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(to Dykes)

We can't make it, Eddie. The light'll be gone in an hour. The temperature's dropping, too, I think.

EDDIE

(looking toward the horizon)

That storm front's moving in fast. But we can't quit. We've got to keep going! It's from Mars!

HENRY

I'm not going to try an instrument landing on skis in the dark - and kill off everybody.

EDDIE

(eagerly)

We can dig for another half hour, Pat.

HENRY

If they get that close - I'll never get them back in the ship. They're so excited now they don't know they're half frozen.

EDDIE

(excitedly)

Look, Pat - I feel fine. I'll stay here all night. Just leave me a sleeping bag and some whiskey.

HENRY

(suddenly)

I got a thermite bomb on the sled. Go get it. We'll melt the ice away.

EDDIE

(axe in hand)

Wonderful! What a brain!

He runs toward the sled. At the same moment one of the diggers cries out.

BARNES

(axe in hand)

Here's a piece in the open! We've uncovered it!

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

The scientists and the axe wielders run over to Barnes. Captain Henry comes over. Dr. Carrington drops to his knees and examines a two foot metal edge protruding from the ice.

CARRINGTON

May I have a file, please?

BARNES

Here's one..

He removes a file from his heavy clothes. The group watches as Dr. Carrington starts using the file on the protruding edge of the saucer.

CHAPMAN

What's it look like, Arthur?

CARRINGTON

(hitting the file against it)
I don't know. Probably an alloy. I'll try and get some filings. We can analyze them tonight.

(he looks up and smiles at the group watching him)

We haven't much time. I suggest you all continue with your excavating.

HENRY

No need to. We've got a thermite bomb.

CARRINGTON

(pleased)

Thermite!. Oh, excellent!

He stops filing and rises. He stands staring down at the machine in the ice. Lieut. Dykes arrives with a thermite bomb, a length of wire and a plunger. MacAuliff comes running up at the same moment.

MACAULIFF

(panting)

They're relaying the message to Fogarty now. We ought to have an answer in an hour. I got some news back from Hendrix. The barometer fell down to the cellar and a

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

freeze is coming up like nobody's business.
He says to watch out.

HENRY

I'm watching. Drill a hole for that bomb,
Eddie.

SKEELY

(moving into the group in
time to hear the last remark)
A bomb? Is that safe?

DYKES

(as he digs the hole, Barnes
assisting)
It's S.O.P. Standard Operating Procedure
for removing ice. It just melts it.

BARNES

It'll uncover the whole saucer in thirty
seconds.

NIKKI

I'm so excited, I'm almost sick to my
stomach.

HENRY

(to Dykes)
That's deep enough, Eddie. The light's
going fast.

CARRINGTON

(softly, as he continues to
stare at the metal mass at his
feet)
Five minutes from now we may have the
key to the stars. A million years of
history are waiting in that ice for us.

DYKES

All set, Pat.

HENRY

Clear the field, Mac.

MACAULIFF

(calling)
Over here - everybody. Keep together.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

The crew and scientists and Nikki move across the ice, led by MacAuliff. Eddie uncoils a hundred feet of wire and walks with it. Captain Henry stands in the increasing wind - surveying the dimly outlined ship in the ice.

HENRY

(raising his arm)

Let her go, Eddie.

Eddie presses the plunger. There is the normal thermite bomb explosion. A glow of the thermite flares and dies.

EDDIE

(calling out)

O.K., folks. She's clear.

Before anyone can move there is a muffled explosion. And a second flare starts under the ice. Gradually the glare builds up. The whole ice field becomes illuminated from beneath by an unbearable light. The onlookers are forced to turn their eyes away, all save Carrington, and Henry who continue to stare at it.

A chorus of exclamations and queries rise from the group.

AD LIB

What is it?

What happened -

Secondary explosion?

Don't look - Shield your eyes!

How can it burn - in the ice?

Chain reaction - from the thermite!

Etc.

SKEELY

(grabbing Chapman's arm)

What's happening to it. Tell me, Doc!

CHAPMAN

(slowly)

I'm afraid it's disintegrating - totally.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(his face tense)

Secrets - that might have given us a new science. Gone!

Captain Henry stands aghast as the wild burning consumes the ship under the ice. He sees its outlines run and vanish. Skeely comes up to him.

SKEELY

(raging)

Standard Operating Procedure, you blind ape! You've destroyed it!

CARRINGTON

I should have thought - I should have thought...

SKEELY

You sure should! The greatest discovery in history up in flames! Fine work!

(he wheels on Henry)

The army can be proud of itself- turning a whole civilization into a Fourth of July piece. Even the Indians acted smarter toward Columbus!

CHAPMAN

Not a shred left. Every bit of it gone - and we know nothing - nothing.

CARRINGTON

We know one thing...what it was made of. Obviously a magnesium alloy.

CHAPMAN

That's right. Only magnesium would react to heat that way.

SKEELY

(bitterly)

Splendid! There's a story for me.

(quoting)

Scientists learn magnesium burns!

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

DYKES

(to Henry)

Want me to mark the spot - so we can find it after the storm?

Captain Henry has been staring into the wind-swept ice. He has stood silent under Skeely's abuse.

HENRY

(to Dykes)

Later, Eddie. First, I want you to bring up all your picks and axes. Mac, I want your Geiger counter. And bring the dog sled.

MACAULIFF

Where to?

HENRY

I saw something under the ice about fifty feet from here. The flare lit it up.

He holds the Geiger counter in front of him and starts walking slowly. Carrington, Ericson, Barnes, Dykes and Skeely move along at his side. The others straggle behind, MacAuliff leading the dog team.

CARRINGTON

What was it, Captain?

HENRY

I don't know. It was shaped like a man, but it might have been a piece of the disk.

DYKES

A man! You mean somebody got out of that saucer?

HENRY

Probably thrown out when it crashed. If it is a man.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(gesturing toward the counter,
which is clicking)
It's radio active. I imagine it must be a
fragment from the saucer.

HENRY

Maybe. It was sure man-shaped, though.

CARRINGTON

(with growing excitement)
Good work, Captain. We may salvage
something yet.

SKEELY

(pointing at the counter)
It's getting louder. More to your left,
I think.

DYKES

(pointing off)
There it is! There!

He points to an ice bank. Dimly
visible in the ice is a two legged
shape.

SKEELY

Is this a story! The man from Mars!

MACAULIFF

(excitedly)
It's got legs - and a head. I can see 'em.

NIKKI

It is! It's a man... It really is!

There is an ad lib chorus of
excited remarks from the others.

AD LIB

There - see it?
Look - right by that boulder!
It's an animal.
No - it's a man.
Most be eight feet long.
Etc.

(CONTINUED)

15 (CONTINUED)

EDDIE

How come it's frozen in the ice - if it was thrown clear?

HENRY

(chopping at the ice)
Same as the saucer. Got melted in.

SKEELY

(chopping at the ice)
How about using some thermite?

HENRY

Shut up!

The men continue to swing their axes. MacAuliff has stepped into a small depression in the ice and is closest to the figure they are trying to extricate. The ice surrounding it has become flawed from their blows, and the figure it contains is practically invisible.

BARNES

(chopping)
I can't see it at all now.

SKEELY

Hurry up, boys. I can't wait.
(to Henry)
Sure hope it isn't a mirage.

HENRY

No mirage. It's there all right.

BARNES

What did it look like in the flare?

HENRY

You'll believe it when you see it.

MACAULIFF

(from below)
Hey -

HENRY

What's wrong, Mac?

(CONTINUED)

MACAULIFF

(staggering away
from the block
they have carved
out)

I'm sick to my stomach. I sunk
my pick right into its skull -
something green oozed out.

EDDIE

No harm done. It was dead
anyway.

ERICSON

The light's going, Pat. We
haven't got time.

HENRY

You're right.

BARNES

Hey, look. The whole block's
coming loose!

CARRINGTON

(nodding)

Recently formed ice. Separates
easily.

HENRY

All right - everybody on it.
We'll load the whole slab onto
the sled.

They load the block onto the dog sled, and start
hauling it across the ice field.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 EXT. POLAR CAMP. THE LIGHT IS ALMOST GONE

The C-54 appears in the lowering sky. It flies
erratically in the increasing wind.

The plane makes a precarious landing on its skis, the
rising gale buffeting, and almost overturning it.

A half dozen bundled Eskimos come out of the camp and
move toward the plane.

Barnes, Eddie and MacAuliff pile out. They help Nikki
and the scientists alight. In the half dark, the
passengers start across the wind-blasted snow toward
the camp. They move with difficulty. Words are
inaudible in the gale.

(CONTINUED)

16 (CONTINUED)

MacAuliff gestures the Eskimos toward the plane. They climb in. Captain Henry and Eddie bring out the dogs and a sled.

The block of ice, half covered by a tarpaulin, is dropped from the plane's door.

Working in the icy blasts now sweeping the dark, the men move the ice-block onto a sled. Others tie the plane down, tethering it to stakes pounded into the ice.

With the plane tied down, the party starts for the camp. The dogs draw the sled with the ice-block on it.

DISSOLVE TO:

16A EXTERIOR ENTRANCE TO STOREROOM

A series of steps have been cut through the snowbank outside the storeroom entrance. The ice-block is unloaded from the sled and bumped down the steep steps.

17 INT. STORE ROOM

It is a dimly lit room, piled with barrels of scientific equipment. It has the look of a gloomy well stocked cellar.

The ice-block is slid into a clear space in the middle of the room. Barrels and boxes are moved to make more room around it, all the group assisting.

HENRY

(to Eddie)

Send the Eskimos away.

EDDIE

They've hot footed it already.
It's going to take a lot of
coaxing to get them back.

MACAULIFF

Anyone got some whiskey?

EDDIE

(poking among
some boxes)

Here's a whole bar room.

He removes a bottle and starts opening it.

(CONTINUED)

17. (CONTINUED)

BARNES

(to Henry, nervously)
What do we do now, unveil him?

HENRY

Nothing to see through the ice.
(to Carrington)
Can you turn off the heat in
this room, Doctor?

CARRINGTON

(softly)
If it's necessary.

EDDIE

What d'you mean, turn off the
heat. It's fifty below outside.

CARRINGTON

I suggest we discuss our procedure
before we take any further steps.

HENRY

(to Eddie)
Open the window, Eddie.

Eddie stares at him and climbs up to the window.

LAURENZ

(full of tension,
his eyes on the
tarp covered block
of ice)

We are wasting time, Captain!
We must melt it out. Investigate!
Examine!

HENRY

We're not melting it out.

EDDIE

(from the ladder
top)

The window's closed.

HENRY

Punch a hole in it.

Eddie breaks the window.

LAURENZ

This is stupid! Criminal! The
secrets of a universe are in
there. We are scientists!

(CONTINUED)

17 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(quietly)

It's almost certain that we'll be called in by the army to make a study of it later, Captain.

LAURENZ

You can't fly the thing to Dutch Harbor! This storm may last for weeks. No human can walk in it.

HENRY

I'm sorry, gentlemen. I'll wait instructions from General Fogarty.

SKEELY

(quietly)

I think you're making a crazy decision. There's no army precedent for how to treat a Martian. And nobody is better qualified to take our visitor apart than these gentlemen of science. You couldn't ask for more geniuses at an autopsy.

HENRY

It's staying in the ice.

LAURENZ

You're behaving like a meddling sophomore, Captain Henry! There are organisms that survive after death. Cold may destroy them.

REDDING

(quietly)

They may be dangerous organisms. Disease germs from another planet. We're not prepared medically to cope with them.

LAURENZ

That is absolute nonsense, Redding!

REDDING

Nor do we know what effect the air of our earth may have on the creature's remains.

HENRY

Yes, I'd feel kind of foolish if this thing disappeared in a cloud of smoke like that saucer did.

(CONTINUED)

17 (CONTINUED)

LAURENZ

(to Carrington)

Arthur, you are in charge of this post.

VORHEES

We have every right to proceed scientifically.

CARRINGTON

(controlling himself)

Captain Henry, I can only urge you in the interest of human knowledge to permit us to examine the body in there -

LAURENZ

(excitedly)

We don't have to be permitted! We have thirty men in this camp - all armed.

HENRY

Your request is denied, Dr. Carrington. That ice-block and what's in it is army property. And this is a military installation. As head of the military here, I'm taking over.

SKEELY

Martial law, eh!

HENRY

Until I receive instructions from my superior officer on what to do - we'll mark time. I'm posting a guard to keep everybody out - and everybody's hands off - in the meantime.

CARRINGTON

(softly)

Captain Henry is doing what he considers right.

(to Henry)

It's difficult for me to mark time - with such amazing information waiting for us - but I accept your decision. I suggest that your guard use one of our electric blankets to keep warm. Will you get him one, Fred.

A mechanic present nods.

(CONTINUED)

17 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

Thanks. How do we get to your
radio room?

CARRINGTON

I'll show you.
(he starts out)

SKEELY

(excitedly)
The radio room! I'm getting
senile! I forgot all about it.

Skeely starts out.

EDDIE

Mind if I have a last peek at
our pal -

He goes to the ice-block, and pulls off the tarpaulin.
The dim two-legged shape is blurringly visible inside
the block.

HENRY

Come on, Eddie.

EDDIE

(staring at the
frosted ice-cake)
I can't quite make it out yet,
but I know one thing. They
don't breed 'em for beauty on Mars.

The rest of the group leaves through the inner door.
We stay with Ken. He stands alone in the cellar,
leaning against a barrel. He picks up a whiskey
bottle and takes a swig. Then he approaches the block
of ice. He stares into it for a moment and backs away.
He removes his gun from its holster, and resumes his
place leaning against the barrels, his eyes nervously
on the ice-block.

INT. UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR - CONNECTING CELLAR AND
RADIO BUILDING

18 Led by Dr. Carrington, the group moves down the shadowy
length. Skeely is talking as he walks beside Captain
Henry.

SKEELY

(his excitement a contrast
to the silence of the
scientists and army men)

(CONTINUED)

18 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY (cont'd)

Can you imagine what's going to happen when this story hits the headlines! Everybody who owns a sled is going to start for the North Pole for a look at the man from Mars. Gentlemen, you'll be doing a bigger business than Coney Island in a week! What a shame, he's dead! An interview with a live Martian! That would have been something, eh? Look, Captain, you've got to let these boys get at that corpse as soon as possible. Our readers will be waiting for details. You're liable to give the whole nation a nervous breakdown.

19 INT. RADIO ROOM

The entire communication equipment of the post is housed here. A step-ladder leads to a trap-door which in turn leads to a small observation tower above the radio room. Sitting at the radio controls is Ezra Hendrix, the operator.

The group enters. Ezra is a stocky young man. He is full of excitement as he turns to the arrivals.

EZRA

I'm using full power. The lousy pole is shooting electricity all over the place.

HENRY

I'm Captain Henry. Any message for me?

EZRA

Yes. Came through a few minutes ago.

(he reads from a piece of paper)

Fogarty to Henry. Remove flying saucer from ice at once. Use thermite bomb to melt her out. Erect temporary structure to protect find until my arrival with staff chiefs.

SKEELY

(beaming)

That's what I like about the army. Smart - all the way to the top.

(to Henry)

Well, Captain, that gives you a chance to pass the buck on that thermite deal.

(CONTINUED)

19 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(ignoring him)

Will you send this to General Fogarty?

SKEELY

Make it short, will you, Captain? There's a hundred and fifty million people holding their breaths -

HENRY

(to Ezra)

Henry to Fogarty. Flying saucer completely destroyed by thermite bomb, due to unforeseen composition of ship. Have removed dead passenger from wreck...

EZRA

(as he taps the key)

You got a Martian? Where is he?

SKEELY

On ice, buddy. Hurry it up - I've got a flash for you.

EZRA

(tapping)

The static's knocking us out of the air.

HENRY

Keeping dead body in block of ice. Carrington wants permission to remove and examine. Waiting your instructions before further action. That's all.

SKEELY

(eagerly)

O. K. Cosmopolitan Press Office, New York City. You can clear through Edmonton. Try our bureau there.

(he dictates)

With Carrington Expedition. North Pole - The world has a new visitor today, a two legged creature from Mars.

CARRINGTON

You are being a little premature, Mr. Skeely. That has not been established.

SKEELY

You can un-establish it - if I'm wrong, Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

19 (CONTINUED)

EZRA

It's dead.

SKEELY

(angrily)

I know it's dead.

EZRA

I mean the sender. Nothing's going out.

SKEELY

Keep clicking, man! It can't quit on you now!

Another telegraph clicking sound comes through.

EZRA

Something's coming in.

He starts writing.

CARRINGTON

It will alter our situation, Captain - if we can't get through to your General.

HENRY

The situation remains as it is - until we do.

EZRA

(reading from the paper on which he has been writing)

Everything grounded - can't join you. Want you to -

(he looks up)

The rest is scrambled, Captain. Can't pick it up.

HENRY

He didn't get my message?

EZRA

Doesn't look like it. We're a weaker station than the one at your base, Captain. I may be able to pick them up - if they keep sending - but our outgoing stuff is hopeless.

(CONTINUED)

19 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

Lookie! You can't stop! I've got to get this story through. Send it anyway. Some ham may pick it up - there's millions of them. Send it!

(to Henry)

Pat, how about heading back for Dutch Harbor?

HENRY

I don't think we can get as far as the plane - in this wind.

SKEELY

(desperately, as he leans over Ezra)

Keep hitting it, pal! Somebody'll get it - somewhere. Keep clicking...

Ezra clicks desperately away on his instrument. The group stands waiting and silent.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 INT. BEDROOM OF THE POST. NIGHT

This is a large dormitory with cot beds in it, lining the walls. Henry, Eddie, Barnes and Skeely are in the room.

Skeely is walking up and down, peering out of the window at the storming night.

Eddie sits on a cot. Barnes is curled up on another cot. Henry is at a window, looking out.

EDDIE

You know something? These scientists here remind me of the time I was stuck on Bulan Island with the Hundred and Sixteenth. An army nurse came ashore one day and created a disturbance similar to this Martian.

BARNES

(from his cot)

What happened to her, Lieutenant?

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

EDDIE

Nothin' she didn't like. I'm just wondering if the professors will try to rush us, Pat.

HENRY

(grimly)

Might relieve the monotony if they did.

EDDIE

I'd hate to have to shoot down seventeen of the world's greatest geniuses. You know somethin'?

HENRY

What?

EDDIE

They're kids, all of them. Nine year olds drooling over a new fire engine. Scientists! Did you notice those two double domes who started crying - when we left the table?

SKEELY

(suddenly)

This storm is getting worse, Captain.

HENRY

Yes, it's tossing around some.

SKEELY

There's only one thing we can do - dog sleds! We can wrap General Fogarty up and take him along.

EDDIE

Fogarty?

SKEELY

That's my name for our pretty boy from Mars. He has the same dubious relation to a human being as that pot-bellied clam in Dutch Harbor. Dog sleds, Captain, are our only solution.

HENRY

Solution to what?

SKEELY

Getting out of here - we could make the base in five days -

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

Cut the yammering, will you. I've got enough on my mind. It's death outside. The storm will knock off even the Polar bears.

The door opens and MacAuliff enters.

MACAULIFF

He's going crazy.

EDDIE

Who?

MACAULIFF

Fogarty.

EDDIE

Which one?

MACAULIFF

Are you nuts? There's only one Fogarty.

EDDIE

There's two now. Skeely's baptized our Martian with the same name.

HENRY

What about the General?

MACAULIFF

Incoming stuff is pretty jammed. But I've figured it to read there's been a leak in Washington. News of our find has made the papers. Congress and the President and a lot of other top brass want further details.

HENRY

They're not picking up anything from us?

MACAULIFF

Not a crackle.

SKEELY laughs.

HENRY

(frowning)

What's the joke, Skeely?

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

(chuckling)

A picture of my editor just came to me...tearing up and down his office - breaking windows and yelling for Skeely. I can almost hear him. He's liable to shoot himself by midnight.

The door flings open. Navigator Ken Ericson enters. He is in a high state of agitation.

KEN

(loudly)

Where's Barnes?

BARNES

(sitting up)

What's up, Ken?

KEN

(violently)

It's eleven five. You're supposed to relieve me at eleven.

HENRY

(sharply)

You've left your post!

KEN

(wildly)

He's late. He was supposed to come at eleven.

HENRY

Shut up!

KEN

(desperately)

I can't take it any longer, Captain.

HENRY

Take what?

KEN

You can see it now! The ice has cleared up. It's got crazy hands. No ears, and a lot of eyes. They're all open! I turned a flash on it - and it looked like it was moving. And I lit out.

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

HENRY
Get back to your post.

KEN
(slowly)
O. K.

HENRY
Barnes will be right along.

KEN
O. K.

HENRY
Get going!

KEN
Yes, sir.

He turns and walks slowly
out of the room.

SKEELY
I'm going to have a look.

HENRY
You're staying out of there, Skeely -
along with everybody else. Put on
your flying suit, Barnes. And get in
there before Ken starts having kittens.

BARNES
(pulling on his electrically
heated flying suit)
That's the first squawk I've heard out
of Ken since Floesti. I don't like it.

SKEELY
All I want is to verify what I know -
about it's being four-eyed.

EDDIE
He didn't say four eyes. He said -

HENRY
Never mind what he said. I'm barring
all civilians.

SKEELY
You're being a little stuffy about this
whole thing, Captain Henry.

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

BARNES

I won't need the electric blanket - if I got this suit plugged in. So in case you care to send me any company, I could make them comfortable, Captain.

HENRY

I'll relieve you myself at 2 a.m. And don't leave your post.

EDDIE

Pat's right, Barney. If you give them a chance, those scientists will have him out - waltzing with him.

BARNES

O.K., Captain. I'll expect you at 2 a.m.

HENRY

Right.

Barnes opens the door. Nikki is in the doorway. She is dressed in a fetching looking outfit.

BARNES

(passing her)

Good evening, Miss Nicholson.

NIKKI

Hello. May I come in?

HENRY

(coolly)

We're a bit untidy.

NIKKI

(smiling at him)

Dreadfully unsocial atmosphere around, even for the North Pole.

HENRY

I'm sorry to have contributed to your gloom, Miss Nicholson.

NIKKI

Miss Nicholson! Is that what happens under martial law - everybody loses their nicknames?

(CONTINUED)

20 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(stiffly)

Did you want to see me about
anything in particular?

NIKKI

No. I was having a drink - all by
myself in my room...and playing the
phonograph. And I suddenly felt I
was being very selfish. All that
lovely music, only for me.

HENRY

(smiling at her)

Want company?

NIKKI

That's what I'm hinting at, Mistah Henry.

HENRY

(to Eddie)

I'll be in Miss Nicholson's quarters if
anything comes up.

SKEELY

I take it Miss Nicholson's quarters
are also out of bounds for civilians.

HENRY

During army occupation only.

He moves Nikki through the door.

21 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE NIKKI'S ROOM

Nikki and Captain Henry approach it. They walk in
silence. Nikki opens the door.

22 INT. NIKKI'S ROOM AND OFFICE

HENRY

(a bit sarcastically)

You sure you trust me with little
you all alone in your bedroom?

NIKKI

Yes, I think I can.

HENRY

Very manly. You ought to wear
pants.

(CONTINUED)

22 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(giggling)

I do.

HENRY

(handing her a drink)

Outside of that news, what's on your mind.

NIKKI

I want a favor.

HENRY

Uh - huh..

NIKKI

(producing a bathrobe cord)

I want to tie your hands behind your back.

HENRY

(in a sudden temper)

Oh, for - Look, you asked me in here - I didn't break down the door - why make a production of --

NIKKI

Please, Pat. I said it was a favor...

HENRY

(grudgingly)

All right, then. But no practical jokes. Promise?

NIKKI

I promise.

(indicating chair)

Here. Sit here. And put your hands around the back.

HENRY

(obeying)

The Secretary of Defense will never understand this.

NIKKI

(as she ties)

It's all very simple. First there's a boogymen in a cake of ice down in the cellar. I've got a small case of jumps, and I want company.

HENRY

Is this the way you usually entertain your company?

NIKKI

(she has finished tying his hands)

How about a drink?

22 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

I'd love it. And a long straw, please.

NIKKI

(picking up a glass and holding it
for Henry while he drinks)

Second, I want you to know that out on the
ice today, I noticed the way you jumped
in between me and the explosion...

HENRY

(patiently)

Could we get to the point? Why am I tied up?

NIKKI

Because I want to tell you how much I admire
you without getting fingerprints all over
my clavicle.

HENRY

(sourly)

Thanks for the compliment. Both of them.

NIKKI

Another drink?

HENRY

After you.

NIKKI

I'm going to have a straight one. But don't
get your hopes up. Liquor doesn't make me
amorous.

HENRY

(as she tosses of a drink)

It ought to. Nothing else does.

NIKKI

(eyeing him steadily)

I liked the way you handled yourself today,
Pat. And I liked the way you stood up to all
the big wigs, and refused to let them play
around with the - with the thing.

HENRY

You like everything about me, but me, is
that it?

NIKKI

No. I like you, too. In fact, I'm going
to kiss you.

HENRY

Untie me, honey.

(CONTINUED)

22 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

No. I'm going to kiss you, not wrestle you.

HENRY

(muttering)

Talk about Japanese tortures -

Nikki kisses him briefly and precisely.

NIKKI

That was very nice.

HENRY

Was it?

NIKKI

Very.

(she pours herself another drink)

See what a good time we can have when you're forced to behave yourself.

HENRY

Nikki, what you don't know about making love would populate the whole interior of Australia.

NIKKI

I'll learn. When I'm good and ready.
(giggling)

They say it comes naturally.

HENRY

Untie me now?

NIKKI

Not on your life.

(she kisses him again)

Admit it, Pat. This was a great idea. Look at you - sitting talking to me like a civilized man instead of grabbing around like a throwback. Why, if you weren't tied up, I wouldn't have dared tell you how much I liked you..

HENRY

(producing a cigarette)

Got a light?

(CONTINUED)

22 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(automatically striking a match
and lighting his cigarette)
You see, your trouble is you don't know
anything about women. You have no - no
technique. What a woman likes is to -

She stops and stares at Henry's hands, which are resting
quietly in his lap.

HENRY

Among other things you don't know is
how to tie a knot.
(he stands up and grins at her)
It's very likely because the only knots
you have on your mind are marital ones.
Good-night, Miss Nicholson.

He goes out.

DISSOLVE

23 INT. STOREROOM

A faint light from the underground hallway comes through
a transom. Barnes enters. The electric blanket
discarded by Ken lies on a nearby packing case. It is
plugged into the electric light socket, hence no light
in the room. Barnes snaps on his flashlight and gets a
bottle of whiskey out of another case, opens it, and
takes a long swig. He leans over and plugs his flying
suit into the other half of the double-socket shared
by the electric blanket's plug. He takes another drink
and, sitting in the semi-dark, starts whistling
"Ragtime Cowboy Joe."

Suddenly he stops whistling and laughs.

BARNES

(self-mocking)
Whistling in the dark, aren't you,
Barnes?..

He lifts the whiskey bottle again, then sits staring
toward the ice-encased mummy.

BARNES (cont'd)

(suddenly)
All right, let's see what you look
like, sonny boy -

(CONTINUED)

23 (CONTINUED)

He switches on his flashlight, and centers its beam on the ice-block. As Ericson said, the ice is now almost transparent. Through it, only partially distorted, can be seen an unearthly horror. It has a bulbous head, a tiny suck-hole for a mouth, multiple eyes, no ears. Its arms are extra-long, ending in thorny clusters, rather than hands. It stares malevolently through the ice.

Barnes lets out a grunt of dismay, and turns the flashlight away.

BARNES

Whew!

He drinks again, and then starts making himself comfortable. He uses a bag of flour for a pillow, and prepares to stretch out on the floor. Abruptly he shines the flashlight on the ice again.

BARNES

(angrily)

Quit staring at me!

He sees the blanket lying on the nearby packing case. He picks it up, and throws it over the ice-cake.

BARNES

I could go nuts looking at you...

He lies down, puts his head on the flour sack and taking a magazine from his pocket prepares to read. The camera moves to the electric blanket now covering the ice-cake, then follows the electric connection down to the indicator affixed to the cord. The indicator hand points to the "full on" position.

(CONTINUED)

23 (CONTINUED)

After a moment, the camera moves back to the floor beneath the ice block. A slow dripping has commenced. The sounds of the rising storm outside obscure the pit-pat of the drops hitting the floor. A small puddle starts to form.

DISSOLVE TO:

24 THE PUDDLE

It is now a large puddle, very large.

The camera pans across the wet floor, and discovers the puddle is close to Barnes' legs.

25 CLOSE SHOT - BARNES

He is having difficulty reading. His flashlight has started to wane. He snaps it on and off, experimentally. The battery is nearly dead. Barnes aims it at the printed page once more, then decides it is useless for the time being. He snaps it off, and stretches himself out more comfortably.

A splinter of light from the hallway outside still illuminates the scene.

26 CLOSE SHOT OF PUDDLE

It continues to grow. The howl of the storm outside does not lessen.

DISSOLVE TO:

27 STAIRWELL OUTSIDE STOREROOM

The form of a sled dog appears. It stands poised at the top of the steps for an instant, pointing eagerly at the storeroom window. It is joined by three or four more sled dogs. They start to bark angrily, their snouts still aimed at the storeroom window. They run down the stairwell and press their muzzles against the storeroom door.

28

INTERIOR STOREROOM
CLOSE SHOT OF BARNES

He is sleeping. The barking and eager whining of the dogs can now be heard over the storm noises outside. The CAMERA PANS down to Barnes' legs. The puddle has reached them, and, as we look, they stir slightly, causing a little splatter of water. Barnes abruptly sits up into the picture.

BARNES

(staring into
the darkness
at his feet)

What the --

At this moment, a moving shadow falls across his face. He looks up quickly. An expression of pure terror appears on his face. He screams eerily, springs to his feet, and jerks out his revolver. He fires six times, then, still screaming, jumps for the storeroom door, the cord from his flying suit snapping out of the fixture and trailing behind him. He yanks open the door and runs into the corridor.

29

INT. CORRIDOR

Barnes races down the corridor, yelling at the top of his lungs!

BARNES

It's alive! It's alive! It's alive!

30

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR

As Barnes appears, still yelling, doors have begun to pop open. Captain Henry, pyjama-clad, gun in hand, comes running out of his room and grabs Barnes.

The other inmates, in various stages of undress, tumble out into the hallway only minutes later. Barnes continues to shriek incoherently.

HENRY

(shaking Barnes)

Shut up! Cut it out!

(he slaps Barnes, who
stops screaming, and

stands sobbing with terror)

Now! What is it? What happened?

(CONTINUED)

30 (CONTINUED)

BARNES

(almost in shock)

It - it - it came after me!
It's alive, I tell you!

HENRY

(sharply)

Did you fire those shots?

BARNES

(staring past him)

I shot it - six times - it kept
on coming at me.

HENRY

(releasing Barnes and
wheeling to Dykes,
Ericson and MacAuliff)

Sounds like some joker's loose.
Come on. Bring your guns.

He starts for the storeroom,
Eddie, Ken, and Mac following.

CHAPMAN

(to Mrs. Chapman,
indicating Barnes)

Esther, better give this lad a
sedative. I'll be right back.

He starts up the hall. Carrington
appears in his doorway.

CARRINGTON

(joining Chapman)

Did I hear right? The boy said
it was alive?

CHAPMAN

(nodding)

Probably had a bad dream.

NIKKI

(calling after
Carrington)

Wait for me, Arthur.

CARRINGTON

You stay here, Nikki.
(he stops and faces
the group in the
corridor)

I'd appreciate it if you'd all
wait in the living room until
we can check this nightmare.
Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

30 (CONTINUED)

He continues down the corridor,
Chapman following.

31 INT. STOREROOM.

Henry leads the way into the room. He snaps on a light,
and stands staring at the electric blanket in the puddle
of water.

HENRY

(blankly)

Gone -

DYKES

Those double-domes! They
stole it.

ERICSON

No. The kid said it was alive!
I knew it - all the time I was
here - I could feel it!

DYKES

Nuts! How'd it get out of the ice?

For answer, Pat indicates the
electric blanket.

HENRY

Somebody threw a hot blanket on it.

DYKES

I know who. Those six-year old
Einsteins, that's who.

Carrington and Chapman have
appeared in the doorway.

CARRINGTON

What did we do, Lieutenant?

DYKES

(furiously)

Swiped the freak. Hustled it
off somewhere to take it apart,
that's what!

CARRINGTON

I assure you, Lieutenant --

(CONTINUED)

31 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN

(suddenly)

Sh - h. Listen!

All heads are turned toward the open door. Over the whine of the wind they hear a chorus of savage barking and growling.

HENRY

The sled dogs -

ERICSON

He's out there -

CHAPMAN

They'll tear him to pieces!

Abruptly, Carrington brushes through the group, and darts out into the howling night. He is clad only in his pajamas and bathrobe.

DYKES

Doctor! Stop!

CHAPMAN

Arthur - are you mad!

Henry curses under his breath and charges in pursuit. Locating Carrington with his flashlight, he brings him down with a flying tackle. Carrington struggles to escape Henry's grasp, but Henry succeeds in leading him back into the storeroom. The storm noises have made their exclamations inaudible.

HENRY

(panting)

Mac - get flying suits - hurry -

MacAuliff runs out.

CARRINGTON

(also winded)

If you please - Captain - you may release me now -

(CONTINUED)

31 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(doing so)

That was a pretty stupid move -
for a genius.

DYKES

You'd have been frozen to death
in five minutes!

CARRINGTON

(apologetically)

Too much zeal, I'm afraid.
Forgive me, gentlemen.

CHAPMAN

(peering into
the night)

Over there - I see something!

HENRY

Put out the light.

Dykes snaps off the storeroom
light. The four men gaze
intently into the dark night.
Henry turns on his flashlight.
Skeely enters the storeroom.

SKEELY

(excitedly)

Where is it? Is it really alive?
Can it talk? Who else saw it
beside Barnes? What are you doing?
Is it out there? Speak to me,
somebody!

HENRY

Shut up.

(he listens and
looks for
another moment)

They're still barking.

CARRINGTON

(speaking through
numb lips - his
voice shivery)

If only the dogs follow it.
We'll never find it otherwise.

SKEELY

(a howl of dismay)

Don't tell me you've lost it -
you bungling army boob. This
is worse than Pearl Harbor!

(CONTINUED)

31 (CONTINUED)

MacAuliff enters, carrying
flying suits.

MACAULIFF

Here you are, Pat.

HENRY

Grab one, Eddie.

CARRINGTON

May I have one, Captain?

SKEELY

Me, too!

HENRY

(dressing hurriedly)
Army personnel only.

SKEELY

(through his teeth)
Wait till you see what I write
about you! You'll shoot yourself!

HENRY

(zipping his suit up)
Snap it up, boys.

He grabs his flashlight, and
runs out into the storm.
MacAuliff and Dykes follow
a second later. Skeely,
Carrington, and Chapman
remain staring after them.

32 EXT. STOREHOUSE

The army officers, leaning against the iron wind, grope their way toward the barking dogs. Their flashlights are almost useless in the snow flurries raised by the gale. They stop and confer for a second, their words carrying no further than the ear they are shouted into. Henry points with his flashlight, and the trio alters course accordingly.

Suddenly a flashlight beam picks up some moving forms. All three flashlights center on the activity, but snow flurries continue to intervene. Dimly, a struggle can be discerned.

(CONTINUED)

32 (CONTINUED)

The officers move toward it. A sudden increase in the wind knocks them down. They continue toward the barking and struggling, crawling on their hands and knees.

33 MEDIUM SHOT OF DOG PACK FROM HENRY'S POINT OF VIEW

The dogs are tearing at a figure in their midst. A sheet of flying snow blots out the scene. When it reappears, the figure is gone.

Henry, MacAuliff, and Dykes crawl into the scene. Two dogs lie dead in the snow. A third is wounded so hideously that Dykes shoots it.

Henry signals his pals to pick up the dead dogs. They each take one.

Henry stops and examines the ground. He picks up two objects, looks around, then starts back to the camp.

DISSOLVE TO:

34 INT. DR. CARRINGTON'S LABORATORY

It is crowded with nearly all the members of the expedition. The scientists are ranged around Carrington's table. The others stand behind him.

Carrington is bent over the table. Captain Henry, MacAuliff and Eddie are immediately around him.

A bright beam of light is focused on the table center, hidden from our eyes as we come on the scene.

The crowd around the table is silent and tense, as at some overwhelming dramatic performance.

Nikki stands beside the doctor. She is dressed in pajamas and a woollen robe. All the others in the laboratory are also hastily dressed, some in bath robes and slippers, some in sweaters and work pants.

Skeely's large bulk is crowded behind Captain Henry, peering over his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

34 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(as he works)

Can you describe what you saw,
Captain?

HENRY

(quietly)

The dogs had him down, tearing
at him.

MACAULIFF

I saw him get up, with three dogs
on his throat.

HENRY

The cold's blinding. I couldn't
make out the action. But when we
got there two of the dogs were
dead.

EDDIE

They looked like they'd been through
a chopper. Mince meat!

HENRY

I found the hand under one of them.
They must have torn it off.

SKEELY

How could dogs tear off a hand?

CARRINGTON

(softly)

This kind of a hand.

He is bent over the object
on the table, looking at it
through a powerful lens.

35

TABLE TOP

On it lies a hand and part of a forearm. The hand
has ten stringy looking fingers, twice the human
length. They are stiffened and resemble a slightly
arced set of thin knives more than fingers.

OLSON

Sharp as razors, aren't they?

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON
 (studying the
 knife fingers)
 Yes - a sort of chitinous
 substance.

SKEELY
 (tensely)
 Speak English - will you!

CARRINGTON
 Something between a beetle's
 back and a rose thorn.

SKEELY
 Thorn fingered, eh?

CARRINGTON
 (trying to bend
 one of them)
 Amazingly strong.

CHAPMAN
 They may be frozen.

CARRINGTON
 I don't think so.

SKEELY
 Well, we know one fact about him.
 He's dead now.

CARRINGTON
 What is your opinion, Captain?

HENRY
 I don't know. He stayed alive in a
 block of ice for twenty-four hours.

MACAULIFF
 After I'd sunk a pick into his skull.

HENRY
 And he got up - with twelve dogs
 on him.

OLSON
 (bending over
 the table)
 That's blood on the arm, isn't it,
 Arthur?

CARRINGTON
 Yes - but not his blood.

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

OLSON

From the dogs?

Carrington has been working
on the arm with a scalpel.

CARRINGTON

There's no blood in the arm. No
animal tissue. Have a look at this
under the microscope, George.

He hands a bit of material to
Dr. Auerback, who adjusts it
under a microscope.

CARRINGTON

(his voice soft as
he continues his
examination)

I doubt very much if it is dead.
I doubt if it can die - as we
understand dying.

SKEELY

It's bound to freeze to death outside.

EDDIE

It got along all right in a block
of ice - for twenty-four hours.

AUERBACK

(from the microscope)

No arterial structure indicated,
Arthur. No nerve endings visible.
Porous, unconnected cellular
growth.

CARRINGTON

I imagined that.

SKEELY

Sounds like you're trying to describe
a vegetable, doctor.

AUERBACK

I am.

CARRINGTON

(hunched over the hand,
his eye peering through
his lens)

Are you getting all this, Nikki?

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(who has been writing
in her pad)

Yes, doctor.

CARRINGTON

That's why the bullets fired into
it by Corporal Barnes had no
effect. They merely punched a few
holes into some vegetable matter.

MACAULIFF

What about the green stuff I saw
ooze out of its head?

CARRINGTON

There is some of it in the hand.
I think we will find it has a
sugar base.

HENRY

Like - plant sap?

CARRINGTON

Yes.

SKEELY

(excitedly)

You mean - its some kind of a
super carrot, doctor?

CARRINGTON

A carrot that can construct a
ship beyond our terrestrial
intelligence, of materials we
have not yet created - and guide
it sixty million miles or more
through space.

MACAULIFF

But you don't think it has any
feelings, eh?

CARRINGTON

It has an intelligence beyond ours -
and possibly feelings equally
refined.

HENRY

(softly)

A vegetable with a brain -

SKEELY

An intellectual carrot! The mind
boggles!

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

It shouldn't. Imagine how strange it would have seemed in the pliocene age to forecast that worms, fish, and lizards that crawled over the earth were going to evolve - into us. On the planet from which our visitor came, vegetable life underwent an evolution similar to that of our own animal life, which would explain the superiority of its brain. Its development was not handicapped by emotional or sexual factors.

SKEELY

Dr. Carrington, you're a man who's won the Nobel prize. You've received every kind of international kudos a scientist can attain. If you were for sale I could get a million bucks for you from any foreign government. I am not, therefore, going to stick my neck out and say that you are stuffed absolutely clean full of wild blueberry muffins, but I promise you that my readers are going to think so.

CARRINGTON

(smiling)

Not for long, Mr. Skeely. In fact, not even for a moment if they happen to know anything about the flora of their own planet.

SKEELY

You mean there are vegetables right here on earth that -- that can think?

CARRINGTON

A certain kind of thinking, yes. Did you ever hear of the Telegraph Vine? Or the Acanthus Century Plant?

SKEELY

Not recently.

CARRINGTON

The Century Plant catches mice, bats, squirrels -- any mammals small enough to evade its privacy. It lures them (cont'd)

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON (cont'd)
with a bait of sweet syrup then it
closes like a fist and feeds on the
corpse of its catch. It is only a
plant but its brain can obviously
outwit a species far above it in
the scale of minds as we measure
them.

SKEELY

(scribbling)

Thanks, doctor. And what's a
Telegraph Vine?

CARRINGTON

A vine that has proven beyond doubt
that it can signal to other vines
of its species twenty or one
hundred miles away. If an insect
migration, for instance, is moving
in a certain direction, it will
devour the first vine but the second
one, having been warned, will have
altered its chemical structure
so that the insects find it inedible.

SKEELY

(still
scribbling)

That's one for Ripley.

CARRINGTON

(smiling)

There are hundreds of other examples.
No, Mr. Skeely, intelligence in
vegetable and plants is an old
story on this planet of ours. Older
even than the animal arrogance
that has overlooked it.

(to Auerbach)

May I have your scalpel, George?

(Auerbach hands

Carrington a
surgical knife)

The palm seems soft.

(he cuts it open)

OLSON

(looking)

Seed pods.

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

Yes - the neat and unconfused
reproductive technique of
vegetation.

CHAPMAN

No pain or pleasure as we know
them.

HENRY

No heart.

CARRINGTON

None. Our superior in every way.

LAURENZ

The absence of ears of the
creature might indicate that it
has a hearing system superior
to ours.

REDDING

Or that it is deaf.

CARRINGTON

It probably neither hears nor
sees as we do - but receives
magnetic impressions.

35 (CONTINUED)

VOORHESS

We can safely presume that the planet on which it lived is colder than ours and that its atmosphere is too thin to conduct sound waves.

LAURENZ

Or that there is any oxygen in its air content - a planet would need none.

REDDING

It's amazing how it was able to adjust itself to the vitally altered conditions of earth - and stay alive.

LAURENZ

It's mysteries will be explained when we - communicate with it.

CARRINGTON

(quietly)

Perhaps - before.

He looks at the seeds in his hands.

LAURENZ

You think those seeds are alive?

CARRINGTON

(quietly)

That would be - too strange, don't you think?

He frowns at Laurenz.

LAURENZ

(quickly)

Absolutely. There are certain things which are - impossible.

HENRY

I think we're overlooking something.

CARRINGTON

What is that, Captain?

HENRY

What - it's doing.

(CONTINUED)

35 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

Probably looking for another block of ice to hide in. A vegetable would head for cold storage...instinctively. Keep it from rotting.

HENRY

I don't think so. There's no reason for it to stay out in that storm if it can move. And I saw it move.

VOORHEES

It ran out into the cold. I think our surmise that it requires a cold temperature is correct.

LAURENZ

Obviously. That's why the saucer tried to land in our Polar regions. They corresponded to the conditions of its own planet.

HENRY

There might be another reason. Its passengers could have wanted to keep their arrival secret.

EDDIE

What's on your mind, Pat?

HENRY

I have an idea it's inside the camp. It headed into the storm because it smelled the dogs and was hungry.

SKEELY

(staring)

Inside the camp! Gentlemen - what I would give for an interview!

CARRINGTON

I don't think it eats, Captain. There is no evidence of any animal digestive system.

HENRY

If it doesn't eat, it does something.

(to the group)

I'd like a half dozen men to go along with Lt. Dykes and me. We don't need guns. Knives, clubs and axes will be better.

35 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

I grant you it may have returned to the camp - and hid itself on the premises, Captain. But there's no reason to go after it - like an enemy.

HENRY

It didn't look friendly - in the snow outside, doctor.

CARRINGTON

(softly)

It's a stranger in a strange land - with strange - unearthly features and attributes. The only crimes involved are those that man and nature have committed against it. It crashed in an air ship, was frozen in the ice, had its head split open by a pick, and was attacked by a pack of fierce dogs. I see no reason to give it a bad character, Captain.

HENRY

(grimly)

It went after the dogs. I'm in charge of the search, doctor. And I'm going to look for it, my way.

CARRINGTON

(his voice rising)

It would be criminal vandalism to injure the visitor further. We must find it - and treat it as our superior whose brain - if we can communicate with it - is full of unique and overwhelming knowledge. We must -

(he breaks off and stares at the table)

SKEELY

(his eyes on the table)

Holy Heaven! It's moving!

EDDIE

It's alive - look out!

We see the hand moving on the table. Its knife fingers flex and unflex. The sliced palm tightens into a fist and

35 (CONTINUED)

opens again. Some of the watchers step away from the table, a terror in them. Carrington remains bent over the hand. Captain Henry stays beside him.

CARRINGTON

(softly, as the hand moves)

Nikki -

NIKKI

(faintly)

Yes, doctor -

CARRINGTON

(dictating)

At two forty-five the hand became alive. The temperature of the forearm showed a twenty degrees rise.

He is studying a thermometer removed from the arm as he dictates. There is a hush. The only sound is that made by the knife fingers beating on the table. During the hush, Carrington takes the surgical scalpel and cuts his thumb. He holds the bleeding thumb over the moving hand. His blood drops on the forearm. The hand's activity is increased. Its fingers move more quickly as they beat on the table top. Carrington continues his dictating.

I believe the activity due to the fact that the organism when it's temperature rose was able to ingest the nourishment provided by the canine blood with which it was covered...

36 CORRIDOR LEADING FROM KITCHEN

Six or seven supply rooms open on this corridor. A searching party led by Captain Henry is in the process of examining these rooms.

Henry carries a Geiger counter with which he scans each door before opening it and sweeping it with his flashlight.

(CONTINUED)

36 (CONTINUED)

Carrington, MacAuliff, Dykes, Laurenz, Voorhoes, Stone and Chapman comprise the rest of the searching party. With the exception of Carrington and Skeely, who are unarmed, they carry an assortment of ice-axes, iron rods, shovels and other improvised weapons. Skeely carries a camera.

STONE

(as Henry searches)

You sure you know how to use that camera, Skeely?

SKEELY

I ran one of these things on Iwo Jima. Never got out of focus once, during the entire bombardment.

(he calls)

Hey, Captain -

HENRY

What do you want?

SKEELY

If we catch up with our pal I want a couple of hundred feet of film...before anyone starts making a salad out of him.

CARRINGTON

(a touch sharply)

No one has any intention of injuring him, Mr. Skeely.

CHAPMAN

And no chance of finding him I'd say. He'd never hide in the camp - not after the reception Barnes gave him.

Henry has completed his inspection of the supply rooms.

HENRY

No dice in this end. Come on.

He leads them away.

DISSOLVE TO:

37 INTERIOR RADIO ROOM

A short corridor leads to a windowless chamber that houses the camp's generators. The party with Henry and his Geiger counter in the van, crosses the radio room.

Hendrix looks up from his telegraphy.

HENDRIX

Looks like a lynching bee. What's up?

MACAULIFF

(kidding)

We heard you got the Mars man hidden back there.

HENDRIX

(in alarm)

I what! You mean it's - it's -

CHAPMAN

Mr. MacAuliff is being amusing.

HENDRIX

I don't want any part of that thing. In fact, I'd like to go home.

38 INTERIOR GENERATING ROOM

Henry's flashlight probes its corners.

HENRY'S VOICE

Nothing.

As he closes the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

39 A SHADOWY HALLWAY

The party moves along. As it reaches a doorway, Henry's geiger counter begins to click.

HENRY

Hold it!

(CONTINUED)

39 (CONTINUED)

He moves toward the doorway
The clicking of the counter
increases.

HENRY

It's in there! Eddie - Mac -

CARRINGTON

(with a small chuckle)

No, Captain. That's the mineralogy
lab. We've got radioactive isotopes
in there.

CHAPMAN

Your Geigers reacting to a roomful
of uranium ore samples.

HENRY

Let's check it anyway.

Dykes and MacAuliff stand beside
him as he pushes open the door
and snaps on the light.

40 INTERIOR MINERALOGY LAB

Save for the scientific paraphernalia that clutters it,
it is empty. Henry switches off the light.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 INTERIOR END OF CORRIDOR

The party has halted by a closed door at the end of
the hallway.

HENRY

(trying the door)

It's locked.

CHAPMAN

I'm sorry - I forgot. I'll get
the key.

He hurries away.

HENRY

Nothing else was locked up.
What's in here?

(CONTINUED)

41 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

The greenhouse. We have to keep it locked. The Eskimos have a weakness for our strawberries.

SKEELY

(incredulously)

Your what?

CARRINGTON

(smiling)

Strawberries.

VOORHEES

We use artificial sunlight. It's quite a garden. We raise our own tomatoes, asparagus, lettuce.

DYKES

(sharply)

Shut up a minute!

CARRINGTON

(quietly)

What is it?

DYKES

(his ear at the door)

There's something moving inside.

There is a silence as everyone listens intently. Carrington puts his ear to the door.

CARRINGTON

(disappointed)

Yes, I hear it. It's the ventilator. The fan needs oiling.

The group relaxes.

SKEELY

(bitterly)

We've been through every crevice of the camp. If it's not in there, we're cooked. Just think - we've lost a flying saucer and a man from Mars all in one day. What a bunch of butterfingers!

Chapman enters.

(CONTINUED)

41 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN
 (proffering the key)
 Here you are, Captain.

Henry takes the key and opens the door.

SKEELY
 (ruminatively, as Henry
 is opening the door)
 I wonder what they would have
 done to Columbus if he'd discovered
 America, and then lost it.

Henry opens the door slowly. He aims his flashlight
 and snaps it on.

42 INT. GREENHOUSE

Henry's flashlight illumines the greenhouse for several
 moments, playing over its plants and bushes. Henry
 switches on the artificial sunlight arcs. A queer glow
 suffuses the greenery. Henry enters, the others follow.

They stand staring into the corners of the large room.
 It is empty and silent.

CHAPMAN
 It's empty.

HENRY
 Maybe.

He starts forward to examine the spaces concealed by
 the shrubbery. Skeely and Carrington move with him.

HENRY
 (stopping)
 Stay here, please. Near the door.

SKEELY
 My, you're big and brave. What are
 you going to do, catch him all alone?

HENRY
 I'm still waiting to see if he wants
 to catch me. Eddie - Mac - come along.

(CONTINUED)

42 (CONTINUED)

The soldier trio makes a round of the hothouse. The others wait.

43 CLOSE SHOT OF CARRINGTON

He is watching the moving flyers. Suddenly he sees something that brings a glint of excitement to his eye. He starts to speak, then reconsiders and changes the incipient remark into a cough.

44 MEDIUM SHOT GROUP AT DOOR

VOORHEES

(closest to Carrington)

What's that, Arthur?

CARRINGTON

Nothing. I just noticed. The Mendelson molds are vitiated. We mustn't neglect them.

Voorhees and Laurenz look at Carrington curiously. He shakes his head imperceptibly. They refrain from comment.

Henry and his colleagues complete their round of the greenhouse.

HENRY

Well, that's it, I guess.

SKEELY

Yes, and isn't it dandy. We're certainly going to be a famous group. Like the Donner Party.

HENRY

(ignoring him)

Dr. Chapman was right. Our pal is probably holed up in a snowbank.

CHAPMAN

(nodding)

After all, he's lost a hand and had six bullet holes shot in him. Animal, vegetable or mineral, he must need a rest.

(CONTINUED)

44 (CONTINUED)

The others laugh. Their mood is much lighter now, except for Skeely, who stares morosely at the floor.

HENRY

We'll start searching outside as soon as it's light.

CHAPMAN

We'd better do it in relays. A half hour is about all you can stand in that cold now.

HENRY

Good idea. Report to Lt. Dykes and he'll arrange a schedule for you.

(He reaches for the light switch)

Coming, gentlemen?

CARRINGTON

(smoothly)

Not right away, Captain. Doctor Voorhees and Professor Laurenz and I want to do some emergency work on those molds. Goodnight, gentlemen.

There is a chorus of goodnights as the others move out. Henry stands looking at Carrington for a moment.

HENRY

Kind of late to start work now, isn't it?

CARRINGTON

(laughing)

It's easy to see you're no scientist, Captain Henry. Work is what we do when we want to relax.

Henry continues to study him for another moment.

HENRY

(abruptly)

I see. Goodnight.

He goes out. Carrington quickly closes the door behind him.

(CONTINUED)

44 (CONTINUED)

He bolts it. Laurenz and Voorhees watch him expectantly Carrington turns and smiles at them brightly.

CARRINGTON

The MacCormick molds - look!

He points. Laurenz and Voorhees regard the plants he indicates.

CARRINGTON

They're wilted, from cold.

LAURENZ

But it's warm in here.

CARRINGTON

(grinning happily)

Isn't it? So what do you conclude?

(without waiting for an answer he continues)

Those molds would be in the direct path of a blast of icy air if that rear door were opened. Ten or twenty seconds of such an exposure, and they would wilt. I repeat, gentlemen, what do you conclude?

VOORHEES

(pointing)

But the bolt hasn't been pulled.

How could the door be opened?

For answer Carrington strides to the rear door. Leaving the bolt still in "Shot" position, he turns the knob and pulls. The door opens.

Voorhees and Laurenz move quickly to the door. The wind whistles about them as the three scientists examine the bolt.

INSERT CLOSUP OF BOLT

It has been cleanly severed.

VOORHEES' VOICE

Filed clean through!

(CONTINUED)

44 (CONTINUED)

BACK TO GROUP. Carrington closes the door.

CARRINGTON

(as he does so)

Not filed, Andrew. Cut.

LAURENZ

(excited)

Yes. Of course. Those razor-like fingers on the hand!

VOORHEES

But the power - to cut through that steel - like butter -

CARRINGTON

(smiling happily)

Incredible. Really incredible.

LAURENZ

(his eyes darting around the greenhouse)

Then it's been in here.

CARRINGTON

(also scanning his surroundings)

Beyond a doubt.

VOORHEES

What's that?

LAURENZ

Where?

VOORHEES

Stand here. See?

(he points)

The storage bin. See how the light glistens on it.

Carrington crosses to a two and a half foot storage bin, and stares at it.

(CONTINUED)

45 CLOSE SHOT - STORAGE BIN

Its handle glistens strangely.

46 BACK TO GROUP

Carrington touches the handle with his forefinger. It is coated with a viscous fluid. Carrington rubs it between his thumb and forefinger, then smells it.

CARRINGTON

A smear of sap - from the wounded arm.

(indicating the bin)

Pull it down, please.

Laurenz and Voorhees take hold of the bin and start to lift it to the floor. It falls from their grasp.

VOORHEES

Look out!

The bin crashes over on its side. A body topples out of it and crashes at their feet. It is the corpse of a dog.

Carrington kneels down and examines it.

CARRINGTON

(feeling the dog)

Not dead over an hour.

(to Voorhees)

See if there's any congealed blood in the bin, Andrew.

LAURENZ

(as Voorhees inspects the bin)

Seems rather shrunken, doesn't it?

CARRINGTON

Its blood has been drained.

VOORHEES

The bin is clean.

CARRINGTON

(nodding)

Now we know definitely the type of nourishment it requires.

(CONTINUED)

46 (CONTINUED)

LAURENZ

(gesturing at the dead dog)
Why do you suppose it brought
the dog in here?

CARRINGTON

We must try very hard to find an
answer to that question.

His eyes start moving around the greenhouse.

VOORHEES

Maybe the artificial sunlight
attracted .

LAURENZ

(shaking his head)
The light was off.

CARRINGTON

(tensely)
That loam bed - number four.
Does it strike you the earth
has been disturbed?

LAURENZ

(eyeing the loam bin)
Olson started some lichen there
last week.

VOORHEES

That's right.

The trio moves over to the loam bed.
Carrington regards the loose earth.

CARRINGTON

(vibrantly)
Gentlemen, our creature will
come back here. Of that I
am certain.

LAURENZ

What do you see, Arthur?

CARRINGTON

I'd rather not say - yet. But
it will come back.

VOORHEES

Hadn't we better tell the others?

(CONTINUED)

46 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

No. I think it better if Science,
rather than the Army greeted it
this time.

(to Laurenz)

Will you keep watch with me tonight,
Andrews?

(Laurenz nods. Carrington
turns to Voorhees)

Please bring us some sandwiches and
coffee. Tell Doctor Auerback and
Doctor Olson what we have found.
Ask them to relieve us at eight in
the morning. And ask them, please
to confide in no one.

Voorhees nods and departs as we

DISSOLVE TO

47

INT. MAIN ROOM. CAMP

It is eleven-thirty the following morning. A late
breakfast is being served in the main living room.

Outside the storm has not abated. It fills the
sky, darkening the Arctic noon.

Henry and Dykes are eating. Mrs. Chapman sits
nearby knitting.

DYKES.

(staring out the window)

Look at that, will you? It'll
never let up! And we could have
been in Edmonton - open air
cafes. Moonlit gardens -

MRS. CHAPMAN.

(placidly)

Oh, we've had them worse than this.
Three weeks is the longest they last.

DYKES.

Three weeks! We ought to be growing
our own fur by that time.

The door opens and MacAuliff, Barnes and Ericson
come in.

HENRY.

Anything, Mac?

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

MACAULIFF

(removing his outer garments)
Not a sign. We've poked into every
snowbank within a mile.

ERICSON

(grinning)
Barnes flushed a Polar bear.

BARNES

(bitterly)
I sure did!

DYKES

(laughing)
Scare you?

BARNES

Not after I saw it was only a bear.

Hendrix enters from an interior door. He carries
a sheaf of messages.

HENDRIX

(bitterly)
I want a raise. Or I'm gonna
strike. Sixteen hours straight
receiving without stopping!

HENRY

Anything for me?

HENDRIX

(angrily)
Just a few million words. What's the
matter with that Fogarty fellow -
got epilepsy?

(he tosses a bundle of
messages on the table)
I haven't even had time to eat.

He pours himself a cup of coffee. Dykes picks
up the messages.

DYKES

Some of them are for Skeely.

HENRY

(eating)
Skip them. Stick to Fogarty.

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

DYKES

(scanning the messages, reads
from one after another)

Fogarty to Henry. Preserve wreckage
of saucer carefully.

(he throws the paper down
and picks up a second
and reads)

Same to same. Preserve corpse
of occupant carefully. Allow no
one to touch it until my arrival.
Same to same. Forward detailed
description of saucer - measure-
ments, weight, general characteristics
of corpse. Important. Fogarty to
Henry. Why haven't you answered?
Answer immediately. Same to same -
radio silence unnecessary.
Reference message Fogarty to Henry.
Acknowledge immediately. Acknowledge
soonest. Fogarty to Henry. Awaiting
report. Silence confusing. Same to
same - acknowledge. Fogarty to
Henry. Acknowledge.

HENRY

I get the general drift. He want
to hear from me.

Skeely enters. He is ruffled, unshaved and still
sleepy.

SKEELY

What you got there?

HENDRIX

(eating toast and gulping
coffee)

Some stuff for you.

SKEELY

(diving for the messages)

For me?

(he stares at them, his voice
growing hoarse with
excitement)

They got part of my story! It went
through! Listen.

(reads)

Verify garbled message regarding man
from Mars. Authorize all expenses.

Cable straight. Eldredge.

(he looks up)

That's the chief.

(he reads)

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

New York Times Syndicate - Will pay ten thousand full story discovery flying saucer and Mars man. Want full details. Answer collect.

(he shuffles through the other messages)

London - Paris - A.P. - R.K.O. -
Life - Colliers - Saturday Evening Post - Marshall Field museum -
Denver - Chicago - New Orleans -
They're all going mad!

(he looks up)

People in the streets yelling for more news. Every man, woman and child in the U.S.A. has stopped working.

(he wheels on Hendrix)

Lookie, Ez - I've knocked out ten thousand words. Been typing all night. Got back and send 'em.

HENDRIX.

(eating)

Not me.

SKEELY

(yelling)

Get on that key!

HENDRIX

(wearily)

Afterwards. I'm going to bed first.

SKEELY

You can't go to bed. Listen - I'll split with you. It's a bonanza! I'll give you 25 percent of the take.

HENDRIX

(his eating done, wearily)

Nothing doing! I'm out on my feet. And the stuff ain't going through anyway. Waste motion.

SKEELY

It'll go through! You keep sending! Ez, old man, they're mobbing the newspaper offices. They're hanging out of windows. This is a world emergency! You can't desert your post in an emergency - any more than you would if a ship was sinking?

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

HENDRIX
 (starting to open
 the door, his back
 turned to it)

A ship is sinking! And it's me.

As he pulls the door open, we see a tall figure leaning against it. Hendrix, unaware of it, continues to open the door as he talks.

HENDRIX (cont'd)
 I wouldn't stay up another hour for ten thousand dollars a minute. I'm out on my feet, I tell you.

The tall figure slides in the doorway and comes crashing into the room at Hendrix' feet. It is Aligari, the botanist. His face is covered with blood. He is semi-conscious. Henry and Dykes rush to him. Henry grabs his wrist and feels for his pulse.

SKEELY
 Who - Who's that?

MRS. CHAPMAN
 Dr. Aligari.
 (to Henry)
 Is he - dead?

HENRY
 No.
 (to Barnes)
 Get Dr. Chapman.
 (to Mrs. Chapman)
 Got any smelling salts?

MRS. CHAPMAN
 Right here - in the washroom.

She starts out of the room.

HENRY
 Wait.
 (to MacAuliff)
 Go with her, Mac.

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

MacAuliff follows her out. Aligari stirs and tries to sit up.

HENRY:

Take it easy, Doctor. Stay where you are. Can you talk?

ALIGARI

(with difficulty)

In the greenhouse - the thing - Dr. Olson - Auerback.

HENRY

What happened?

ALIGARI

I went in - to check the temperature - my back was turned - when Olson screamed - When I turned around - the thing - it cut my face - The blood blinded me - I fell down - I must have fainted.

(Mrs. Chapman reappears.

She hands Henry the salts.

He holds them to Aligari's nostrils)

Thank you ... When I came to, I saw Olson and Auerback - hanging upside down - Their throats were cut - I crawled out - and came here -

Henry rises swiftly

HENRY

Come on, Eddio. You too, Mac. The rest of you stay here - and stay together.

He runs out.

SKEELY.

I'm coming! I don't care what you say!

He follows the others.

48

OUTSIDE GREENHOUSE DOOR.

The door is shut. Henry, MacAuliff, Dykes and Skeely come down the corridor. They are carrying axes and guns.

(CONTINUED)

48 (CONTINUED)

Henry approaches the door, then stops. He turns to MacAuliff.

HENRY

Mac, round up a detail and post it at the rear door of this hothouse. Don't go in - just take some timber and seal up the doorway!

MACAULIFF

Right.

He runs down the hall. Almost before Henry has finished speaking, the door behind him has opened with lightning rapidity. Henry turns with almost equal speed, instantly raising his axe. The Thing appears for a split second in the doorway, only to be met with a crashing wallop from the flat of Henry's axe. The force of the blow propels the Thing back into the greenhouse. Henry seizes the doorknob and pulls the door shut. He turns the key in the lock.

HENRY

(to Dykes)

Get the carpenter - on the double!

Dykes runs out.

SKEELY

(tensely)

We going in now?

HENRY

No.

SKEELY

What about Olson and Auerback?

HENRY

(snapping)

Nothing about them! They're dead.

SKEELY

(producing a camera from his pocket)

How about opening the door long enough for me to get one shot - just two seconds.

(CONTINUED)

48 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

I'll shoot the man who opens this door.

SKEELY

(grimacing)

Well, that's a straight answer. What other plans have you got?

HENRY

If Mac gets to the rear door in time, we're going to keep that thing bottled up in there.

SKEELY

Suppose it starves?

HENRY

I'll let you do my crying for me.

DISSOLVE TO:

49

MEDIUM SHOT AT DOOR OF GREENHOUSE

The carpenter is driving home spikes in a heavy cross beam that bars the greenhouse door. Four similar bars have already been installed.

Barnes and Ericson are holding the beam in position as the carpenter works. Skeely has left to resume his pestering of Hendrix the telegrapher.

Henry is consulting with Chapman.

HENRY

You're sure there's no other way out?
No trapdoor - or windows?

CHAPMAN

None. Only the front and back doors.

HENRY

The walls solid?

CHAPMAN

Corrugated iron.

HENRY

That thing's radio active. Could it maybe burn its way out?

(CONTINUED)

49 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN

I'd consider it extremely unlikely, but -

He pauses.

HENRY

But what?

CHAPMAN

The thing itself is extremely unlikely. According to Doctor Aligari, it has already grown back its arm.

(with a sudden emotion)

Captain Henry - forgive me. I don't want to go against your orders but those two men in there were friends of mine. Close friends, for many years. Isn't there some way we can get their bodies out? I can't stand the thought of them hanging there - by their feet - and nothing being done for them!

HENRY

What can be done for them? Face the facts, Doctor. They're dead. Their throats were cut and they bled to death. Upside down, like in a slaughter house. Our job is to see that nobody else joins them.

CHAPMAN

(with a shudder)

What a way to die.

Professor Voorhees has come down the corridor.

VOORHEES

(quietly, to Chapman)

May I have a word with you, Fred?

CHAPMAN

(turning to him)

Certainly.

VOORHEES

Privately.

CHAPMAN

Oh.

(to Henry)

Excuse me.

(CONTINUED)

49 (CONTINUED)

Henry nods. Chapman accompanies Voorhees a few yards down the corridor. Voorhees starts to whisper. Henry watches them.

VOORHEES

(into Chapman's ear)

Come to Carrington's lab as soon as you can - and don't let anyone know.

CHAPMAN

Right away.

(turning back to Henry)

Was there anything else, Captain?

HENRY

Yes. We're keeping a double guard - outside and in. Two hour shifts. I'll need eight volunteers.

50 INT. DR. CARRINGTON'S LABORATORY

Dr. Carrington is at his desk. Nikki is beside him, note book in hand.

Drs. Chapman, Voorhees, Laurenz and Wilson are in front of him. They are silent and alert as he talks.

Carrington is tense and queerly exuberant. Exhaustion and excitement are in his face.

CARRINGTON

(softly and tensely)

Two of our colleagues have died and a third is dying. Those are our losses - and the battle has only begun. There will be more losses. The creature X is more powerful, more intelligent than us. We are infants beside him. He regards us as soft, vulnerable earth worms important only for his nourishment. He has the same attitude toward us as we have toward a field of cabbages.

LAURENZ

(interrupting)

You said you had news for us, Arthur.

(CONTINUED)

50 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

I have.

(he rises and smiles)

We are infants, earthworms and also
scientists. We have made gains.

VOORHEES

What have you found out?

CARRINGTON

(glowing and tense)

A new world has come to devour us. Only
science can conquer it. Our minds, gentlemen -
the little muscle that thinks, observes,
examines and finds answers. All other weapons
will be powerless.

(his eyes close. Weariness
overcomes him. He mutters)

I'm very tired. It's difficult to eat.

(he presses his thumbs into
his eyeballs)

Will you read my notes, Miss Nicholson?

LAURENZ

You need some rest, Arthur.

CARRINGTON

(softly)

No rest. Please read -

NIKKI

(reading from her note book)

At 9 p.m. I placed the fifteen seeds taken
from the severed hand of X in four inches
of earth. I saturated the earth with two
units of plasma taken from our blood bank.

Nikki pauses, her face tense.

CARRINGTON

Please go on, Nikki..

NIKKI

(continuing to read)

The condition of the dog found in the
greenhouse indicated that blood was a
primal factor in the cultivation of the
seeds. At 2 a.m. the first sprouts
appeared through the soil. I used another
two units of plasma. At 4 a.m. the sprouts
began to take on definite forms - and -

She breaks off, her face
strained, her voice faint.

(CONTINUED)

50 (CONTINUED)

LAURENZ

(tensely)
They are still growing!

CARRINGTON

Five of them - have survived.

Carrington rises and starts
toward a screened in table.
The others follow. Nikki
remains motionless at the
desk.

51 SCREENED IN TABLE

A four foot box of earth is on its top. The men stand
over it. Five small sprouts are budding through the soil.
There is a moment of silence.

CHAPMAN

(softly)
It reproduces itself - like a vegetable!

WILSON

(staring)
They're growing!

LAURENZ

Alive!

CARRINGTON

Yes. The Geiger counter registered
6 point 1 radio activity from them an
hour ago.

He holds the counter over the
sprouts. The men watch its
dial.

CHAPMAN

(reading the dial)
Nine point five.

LAURENZ

Thriving -

The men speak in excited but
controlled voices.

WILSON

(awed)
Human plants!

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(softly)
Super human.

VOORHEES

(eagerly)
We must nourish them carefully. My examination of the hand revealed a high glucose content and a chlorophyll base. I suggest a glucose injection.

LAURENZ

Glucose may be dangerous.

CARRINGTON

Yes. I think so. He's not using glucose in the greenhouse.

WILSON

That's why he killed * for blood. He's growing seeds there. What will we do - when these mature?

CARRINGTON

Study them.

LAURENZ

(quietly)
Have you examined the roots, Arthur?

CARRINGTON

There are no roots.

CHAPMAN

Amazing! I think we ought to turn the violet rays on it.

LAURENZ

(testing with his fingers)
No. The growth seems strongest where the earth is dampest. Any light might dry it up.

VOORHEES

How much plasma have we got?

CARRINGTON

I've moved all the units in here. Thirty-five.

LAURENZ

(softly)
That may be enough.

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

WILSON

(looking at an instrument
beside the earth box)
What were you doing with that stethoscope,
Arthur?

CARRINGTON

(quietly)
Listening to them.

LAURENZ

(looking at the buds through
a magnifying glass)
There doesn't seem to be any oscillation.

CARRINGTON

The sound doesn't come from any oscillation -
but from something else.

VOORHEES

An animal sound! Impossible!

Wilson puts the stethoscope in
his ears and holds the end of
it over a bud. The others wait
in silence. We listen with him.

WILSON

(removing the stethoscope)
Arthur's right. It's a hunger noise -
like an infant.

Nikki has appeared behind
the screen.

NIKKI

May I talk to you, Arthur?

CARRINGTON

(quietly)
Later! Would you please type up all
my notes.

(he looks at her intense face
and then smiles at her, he
turns to the men)

Excuse me.

(the scientists are bent over
the earth box. They hold the
Geiger counter over it and listen
to its faint clicking. Dr.
Voorhees listens as did Wilson
through the stethoscope. Carrington
moves out from behind the screen
(with Nikki)

What is it, Nikki?

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

I insist that you get some sleep, Arthur.

CARRINGTON

Later.

NIKKI

(insistent)

You can't use your mind - if you're exhausted.

CARRINGTON

My mind's still perfectly clear.

NIKKI

It isn't,

(he frowns at her)

You're not thinking of what's happening in the greenhouse. You saw what one of them can do! Well, just imagine if there are a thousand, or a hundred thousand!

CARRINGTON

I have imagined it.

NIKKI

And you won't do anything?

CARRINGTON

I'm doing all that can be done, Nikki - discovering its secrets.

NIKKI

(tensely)

I know! And that's quite wonderful. But what if that ship came here not just to visit the earth, but to conquer it! To start growing some kind of a horrible army. And turn the human race into - into food for it! And kill the whole world.

CARRINGTON

(quietly)

There are many things threatening to kill our world, Nikki. New ~~stars~~ and comets shooting through space. Atmospheric changes. A sudden cooling of the sun. And even human wars - that may release deadly global gases.

NIKKI

But those are theories, Arthur! This is an enemy - near us - and -

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(taking her arm)

There are no enemies in science - There are only phenomena to study. We are studying one.

NIKKI

You're not afraid?

CARRINGTON

I'd be a traitor to human reason if I allowed my fears to destroy what has come to us - or let any one else destroy it.

(softly)

I want you to believe in my way, Nikki - the way of the mind.

NIKKI

(nervously)

I've admired you tremendously, Arthur -

CARRINGTON

(intensely)

Not admiration - Faith.

NIKKI

You have it.

(she smiles nervously)

I'm so terrified I can barely walk. I'll - I'll totter off to my room and type your notes.

CARRINGTON

(softly)

Thanks.

(She starts away)

DISSOLVE TO:

52 INT. NIKKI'S ROOM

She is typing at her desk, her note book propped up in front of her. A sheaf of typewritten pages is beside her machine.

The door opens. Captain Henry enters.

HENRY

(watching her type)

Want to take a rest?

(CONTINUED)

52 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(without looking up)

Can't.

HENRY

I'll rub your neck. It'll relax you.

He comes behind her and
massages her neck and
shoulders gently.

NIKKI

Please, I can't concentrate - when you
do that.

HENRY

Maybe you're concentrating on the wrong
thing.

She finishes the last line of
typing, pulls the page out of
the machine, puts it on a pile
of copy. She covers the pile
with a large book.

NIKKI

I'm bushed.

(she smiles at him)

That feels good. Please don't tire yourself.

HENRY

(massaging, and trying
to get a look at the
copy over her head)

Couldn't.

(casually)

Have there been any accidents up here in the
last two months? Anybody shot, stabbed or
had an ulcer removed?

NIKKI

(covering the copy casually
with another book)

No. That what-is-it in the greenhouse is
our first diversion.

HENRY

(smiling)

I brought up thirty-five units of blood
plasma two months ago. What's become of
it?

(CONTINUED)

52 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

Why nothing. It's here.

HENRY

I wondered why they're not using it on Dr. Aligari. They're giving him blood transfusions. No plasma. Two live donors. Any ideas about that?

NIKKI

(moving her neck and shoulders away)

Thanks for the massage. You're really very good at it.

HENRY

It's just a sample.
(firmly)

Relax your neck muscles.
(she does)

That's fine.

(he starts massaging her)

shoulders, speaking casually as he does)

What's Carrington doing with thirty-five units of plasma, Nikki?

NIKKI

Ask him.

HENRY

I will.

(gently)

Just close your eyes - and float. It's good for you.

NIKKI

(wearily)

I'm really exhausted.

She closes her eyes, sighs and "floats." Henry makes a quiet sudden move toward the pile of copy she has hidden under the two books. The gesture catches Nikki by surprise. She stares for an instant unable to believe his perfidy and then leaps to her feet, full of outrage.

NIKKI

Give that back! It's private. You're not allowed to - ! Give that back or I'll - ! Oh, you're horrible, a cheap, underhanded army spy!

(CONTINUED)

52 (CONTINUED)

She has flung herself at him, clawing for the papers in his hand. Her physical assault is too violent for Henry to ignore. He puts an end to it by sending a short right into her stomach. She doubles up with a groan.

NIKKI

You hit me!

HENRY

Only in the stomach. Won't leave any marks.

(Nikki sinks into her chair, staring at him as he reads the copy. His voice grows quiet and serious)

So that's it! Holy Ike - five of them!

(he looks up from his reading and stares back at her, his voice curt)

You deserved that punch!

NIKKI

(softly)

I wanted to tell you. But I couldn't. I gave my word. I'm glad you - did what you did. I'm very glad.

(she smiles wearily at him)

You can finish the massage now - Pat.

HENRY

I've got a few other things to finish first, baby.

He walks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

53

INT. CARRINGTON'S LABORATORY

The door opens. Captain Henry, Lt. Dykes, Dr. Redding and Dr. Ambrose enter. They look into a seemingly empty room.

HENRY

(calling)

Dr. Carrington.

(Carrington comes out from behind the screen)

CARRINGTON

I'm afraid I'm rather busy right now, Captain. Might I ask you to -

(CONTINUED)

53 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(cutting in)

I've learned that you found a dog in the hothouse - bled white by our Visitor. And you didn't report it.

CARRINGTON

I didn't consider it necessary.

HENRY

No? But it was necessary to let two friends of yours go in there and get killed!

CARRINGTON

(evenly)

I did what you would have done. I put them there as guards. I was a guard myself. Their deaths were unavoidable. Whoever was in there would have been killed.

HENRY

I also understand you're doing a little gardening.

Carrington remains silent. Voorhees and Laurenz emerge from behind the screen and stand at Carrington's side.

HENRY

You might have notified me - instead of letting me find it out from Miss Nicholson.

(Carrington scowls at this bit of news. Henry adds sharply) Where are they?

Carrington and his two cohorts are silent. They stand staring at Ambrose and Redding. Dykes has stepped behind the screen.

DYKES

(reappearing)

This way to the nursery, Pat.

Henry, Ambrose and Redding step behind the screen.

SCREENED IN TABLE

Captain Henry and Lt. Dykes stare at the box of earth. Rigged up over it are four plasma containers out of which blood is dripping slowly.

Carrington appears.

Henry points at the plasma containers.

HENRY

(grimly)

That's what your late colleagues are doing - in the greenhouse. This is a distinct improvement.

AMBROSE

(quietly)

We have read your notes, Arthur. I think you should have consulted the rest of us.

CARRINGTON

(coldly)

I have all the help I need.

REDDING

(his eyes on the sprouts in the earth box)

I consider the situation extremely serious, Dr. Carrington.

CARRINGTON

(softly)

Your opinion has not been asked, Dr. Redding.

REDDING

(quietly)

It has - by Captain Henry. And I've given it to him. I'll repeat it to you. We're facing something unpredictably dangerous. The creature in the green-house is obviously multiplying itself - in this identical fashion. It will need more blood for its operations. It will make every effort to obtain what it needs.

CARRINGTON

It has been imprisoned and immobilized.

(CONTINUED)

54 (CONTINUED)

REDDING

We don't know its powers....or its resources. We can not be sure of our safety - or of something even more important - the world's safety. We have no knowledge of how much it can multiply. A thousand creatures - or ten thousand of the sort we've seen could -

CARRINGTON

(interrupting)

I'm not interested in your fantasies, Dr. Redding.

AMBROSE

Redding's right. The thing has to be destroyed, Arthur, and its progeny along with it.

CARRINGTON

Never.

HENRY

(ignoring Carrington)

What do you think is the best procedure, Dr. Redding?

REDDING

We'll analyze these things in the box first, and see what sort of gas or chemical has the quickest effect on them. And then use it in the greenhouse.

AMBROSE

A high electric voltage should be able to accomplish what we want.

CARRINGTON

(coldly)

You're talking like a frightened school boy, Dr. Ambrose.

AMBROSE

(angrily)

Two men have been killed! And there's more killing ahead.

HENRY

Electricity sounds good to me. We'll shoot it into the greenhouse and -

(CONTINUED)

54 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON
(interrupting angrily)
I forbid - any destruction!

LAURENZ
It would be an outrage!

VOORHEES
(at the same time)
A cowardly betrayal of science!

HENRY
(grimly)
This isn't science! This is a
military action against an enemy
invader. Go ahead, Gentlemen. Get
MacAuliff, Lieutenant.
(to Redding)
Mr. MacAuliff will be in charge of
the electrical operations.

The door opens and the post's radio man, Ezra
Hendrix enters.

HENDRIX
(excitedly)
I got your message through, Dr.
Carrington! And the answers are still
coming. I had to take them in shorthand.
(he starts reading)
Fogarty to Henry. Carrington informs
me Martian alive. You are directed to
make every effort to keep it alive, and
protect it against any injury. General
MacLaren arriving tonight with
fourteenth squadron - and full government
personnel including Secretary of State.
Chief of staff already here. Under no
circumstances take action against
Martian until our arrival at post soon
as weather permits. Confirm instantly.
(Hendrix looks up)
There's one for you, Doctor. Fogarty
to Carrington - give Henry all
cooperation needed to insure survival
of creature you describe. Army and
science chief regard your captive most
important in human history.

CARRINGTON
You have your orders, Captain Henry,
and I have mine. I consider them sane
and intelligent.

(CONTINUED)

54 (CONTINUED)

HENDRIX

I got to get back. That loon
Skeely's got a story longer than
the Bible he wants me to send.

Henry starts with Hendrix for the door.

EDDIE

What do we do, Pat?

HENRY

We get on that radio and try
changing the Army's mind.

He walks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROOM OCCUPIED BY HENRY AND HIS CREW. 1 A.M.

55 MacAuliff and Barnes are sleeping on cots. Captain
Henry is preparing to lie down. He goes to the
window and looks out at the wildly whirling snow.

HENRY

(muttering)

That stinkin' wind!

(he turns toward
one of the cots)

You think our plane's still in
one piece, Mac?

There is no answer from the sleeping MacAuliff. The
door opens and Eddie comes in. He wears his flying
suit. He carries a Kerosene hurricane light.

EDDIE

(wearily)

Baby, am I bushed! That bitchy wind
cuts you in half.

(he hands Henry
the lamp)

Mind filling this up? Burned dry.
You'll need it outside. Blacker than
Fogarty's heart.

(he starts
removing his suit
as they talk)

Anything new?

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

Henry starts filling the lamp out of a large kerosene can.

HENRY

(grimly-quoting)

Fogarty to Henry. Your attitude inviting court martial. Fogarty to Henry. Your hysterics are unbecoming to officer - also black mark for entire air corps.

EDDIE

(wearily)

That pook head! He thinks we're running a minstrel show.

(he has lain down
on the cot)

When do I stand guard again?

HENRY

Four hours.

EDDIE

(snuggling
into pillow)

In that case, excuse me.

(he sighs and
mutters sleepily)

Remember Guadalcanal - those nice warm nights?

Henry has lighted the hurricane lamp.

HENRY

If this rotten weather would only quit for a minute - they can come in and court martial me all they like. Hendrix says it won't blow itself out for two more weeks. He was up here once with -

A snore comes from Eddie and Captain Henry stops talking. He sits down on a cot to remove his shoes. There is a knock on the door. Henry goes to it and opens it. Nikki comes in. She is in a night robe and slippers. She carries a small toilet kit and a blanket.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(brightly)
Have you got room?

HENRY

Come in. I was just going to bed.

NIKKI

Thought I'd join you - if you don't mind.

HENRY

Don't mind at all.

NIKKI

I brought my own blanket - if you have an extra cot.

HENRY

I think we can - arrange something.

NIKKI

(sitting down
on a cot)
This one's empty.

HENRY

It's mine.
(she starts
to get up)
Perfectly all right - you can use it.

He sits down beside her.

NIKKI

(nervously)
You don't mind sleeping with one of the men.

HENRY

It's not my usual preference.

NIKKI

(laughing a little
loudly)
Mine either.

HENRY

(frowning)
Shh. No sense in waking them up.
They're very tired.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

(solemnly)

Sorry.

(he puts his arm
around her as she
peers at the sleepers)

I'll try not to disturb them.

HENRY

You can lie down, if you care to.

NIKKI

I can't.

HENRY

Why not?

NIKKI

I'm scared to death. The minute
I lie down, I jump up.

HENRY

Maybe I can relax you, baby.

NIKKI

Please - no massages.

HENRY

Can't you think of me as something
beside a masseur?

NIKKI

Yes.

(she looks at
him nervously)

Please make love to me.

HENRY

(holding her)

You're shaking.

NIKKI

I know. It'll take my mind off -
what's making me shake - that what-
is-it.

HENRY

(gently)

You're very sweet. Perfect skin,
perfect nose - everything perfect.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

Thank you.
 (she stares
 at him and
 adds softly)
 Please go on.

HENRY

Your mind isn't on it.

NIKKI

Yes it is. Honestly it is.
 You said I was perfect.

HENRY

If you lie down you'll stop
 shaking, baby.

NIKKI

I won't.

HENRY

Just try it.

NIKKI

You -- you can't make love to
 me if I'm lying down.

HENRY

Yes I can. It doesn't interfere
 at all.

NIKKI

Pat -- do you really love me? Or
 are you just talking because I
 asked you to?

(Henry has turned his
 head toward a clicking
 noise coming from the
 direction of MacAuliff's
 bed. Nikki frowns at
 him)

Now whose mind isn't on it?

HENRY

(looking at her)
 Darling.

NIKKI

(smiling nervously
 at him)
 I understand perfectly.

HENRY

What?

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI

A room full of kibitzers and a monster floating around -- it's a little difficult kissing a girl under such conditions.

HENRY

(his ears cocked at the continuing clicking)
You're wonderful.

He kisses her.

NIKKI

(after the kiss)
That's very -- relaxing. I feel much better. I'll -- I'll lie down, if you don't mind.

She lies down on the cot. As she does, Henry stands up. She looks at him with some surprise.

HENRY

That clicking. Sounds like.
No -- it couldn't be --
(he smiles tensely at the recumbent Nikki)
Excuse me.
(he goes to MacAuliff's bed and shakes him gently)
Mac, Mac -- wake up.
(MacAuliff opens his eyes)

MACAULIFF

What's the matter?

HENRY

(gesturing toward the clicking)
Hear that?

MacAuliff listens for a second, then sits up swiftly.

MACAULIFF

The counter!

HENRY

I thought so!

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

MacAuliff jumps up and grabs at a duffle bag that lies at the foot of his bed.

NIKKI

What is it?

HENRY

The Geiger counter.

NIKKI

Why should it be clicking now?

HENRY

There's something moving around that's radio active.

NIKKI

Oh, no -- no!

MacAuliff lifts the counter out of his duffle bag and stares at it. It continues to click, its rhythm accelerating slightly. Henry darts to the intercommunication panel at his desk.

HENRY

(pushing a button)

Ericson! Kem! This is Pat.
Come in -- quick!

A moment's silence.

ERICSON'S VOICE

Ericson here --

HENRY

(rapidly into
speaker)

Any trouble down there?

ERICSON'S VOICE

Not a thing, Pat.

HENRY

Who's on duty outside?

ERICSON'S VOICE

Dr. Ambrose and what's his name,
the carpenter.

HENRY

Beat it out there, as fast as
you can. Check that rear door
and call me back!

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

ERICSON'S VOICE

Will do.

Henry turns to MacAuliff and Nikki who are staring fearfully at the counter. The clicking has continued to gain in volume and metre,

MACAULIFF

It's getting stronger.

Henry grabs a pillow from the bed and an ice axe from his desk. He runs to the door, opens it and cautiously peers down the hall. MacAuliff and Nikki watch him tensely.

HENRY

(after a moment)

Nothing. Not a sign --

Nikki gives a long sigh of relief.

NIKKI

My heart's pounding like a horse running away.

MACAULIFF

(shaking the counter)

Suppose this thing's gone nuts?

HENRY

(dropping the pillow and ice axe)

I sure hope so. Let me see it.

(he takes the counter; the clicking is now quite rapid)

It looks okay.

There is a movement outside the window. No one in the room sees it.

MACAULIFF

Maybe Dr. Carrington is experimenting some more.

NIKKI

(hopefully)

That's possible. Shall I call him?

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

The intercom speaks.

ERICSON'S VOICE
Everything's in order outside,
Pat.

HENRY
(into intercom)
Thanks, Ken.

He snaps the intercom shut.

MACAULIFF
(eyes glued on
the counter)
I sure don't get it.

HENRY
Call Carrington, Nikki.

NIKKI
(pressing a
switch on the
intercom)
Dr. Carrington -- Dr. Carrington.
This is Nikki, Arthur.

A moment's pause, then Carrington's sleepy voice comes from the intercom.

CARRINGTON'S VOICE
Yes, Nikki?

NIKKI
I'm in Captain Henry's room.
His Geiger counter is counting
Geigers like mad. He wants to
know if it might be picking up
anything that you're doing.

CARRINGTON'S VOICE
No. What's the reading?

MACAULIFF
Eight point six. And going up.

NIKKI
(repeating into
intercom)
Eight point six. And going up.

CARRINGTON'S VOICE
I'll be right down.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

The intercom snaps off. Suddenly the Geiger counter starts purring like a rattlesnake.

HENRY

(his voice
rising)

Eddie! Barnes! Get up!

(Dykes and Barnes
sit up in alarm)

Grab your guns -- axes are
better -- Nikki, take this!

(he seizes the
mattress on
his cot and
pushes it at
Nikki)

Sit in the corner -- hold that
over you!

(to MacAuliff)

Where's your tommy-gun?

MACAULIFF

Here!

He pulls tommy-gun from under his bed and brandishes it.

DYKES AND BARNES

What's up?

Where is it?

A CRASH from the window is their answer.

HENRY

Pillows! Get those pillows in
front of your faces!

A second CRASH sends the entire window hurtling into the room. The Creature springs into their midst.

GUNS ROAR. The Creature moves toward MacAuliff. His tommy-gun chatters at it point-blank. It strikes at the tommy-gun, knocking it out of MacAuliff's hands, and sending MacAuliff sprawling.

The Creature jumps after MacAuliff. It is balked for a moment by Henry who strikes it with his ice axe.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

A bullet hits the light. Only the dim light of the kerosene lamp remains.

The Creature whips its knifed hand at Henry's face. Henry partially blocks the blow with his pillow which shreds in the air. Henry staggers back against the wall. He almost knocks over the hurricane lamp. He picks it up and dashes it at the Creature. Flaming kerosene spatters over it. As it stands burning torch-like in the middle of the room Barnes moves forward and strikes a mighty blow with his axe. The blow misses. Instantly the Creature wheels and seizes Barnes by the throat. Barnes screams once. His scream gurgles away. Dykes, holding his entire cot in front of him as a shield, rushes forward followed by Henry. They smash at the monster which, still holding Barnes with one tentacle, retreats to a corner of the room.

It is the corner in which Nikki has been crouching. She screams. The Creature whips its free talon at her and secures her by the arm. Still afire, it starts dragging its two victims toward the window. Nikki's screams fill the room. Once more Henry charges forward with his ice axe and sinks its pointed end into the Creature's head.

The Creature stops, drops Nikki and lashes at Henry. This time its arced knife-fingers slash Henry's wrist. Henry drops the axe and falls back. Dykes, still shielded by his cot, has at the same time grabbed Nikki's ankle and pulled her away. MacAuliff has picked up the can containing the remainder of the kerosene. He throws it on the Creature. The blaze surges up.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

Parts of the room have caught fire. The Creature picks up Barnes and springs out the window into the storm.

For a moment its motion through the night is etched in fire. Then the wind and snow extinguish the flames. The Creature disappears. Dykes moves quickly from Nikki to bend over Henry who is kneeling in silent agony, clutching his lacerated forearm. Dykes snaps on a flashlight.

DYKES

(panting)
You all right, Pat?

HENRY

(with difficulty)
Yeh.
(he nods toward Nikki)
How about her?

DYKES

Fainted. Her arm's cut. I think she's all right, though.

MACAULIFF

(his fingers on Nikki's pulse)
Yes, she's all right.

HENRY

Barnes - he died quick, I think.

DYKES

So do I.
(he points his flashlight at the floor)
That thing won't make much of a meal off the poor guy. Most of his blood's in here.

There is a knock on the door.

CARRINGTON'S VOICE

It's Dr. Carrington.

HENRY

Come in.

Dr. Carrington enters. Dykes' flashlight focuses on his face.

(CONTINUED)

55 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON
 (blinking at the beam)
 I heard shots - what happened?

HENRY
 Dr. Carrington, I want everyone in
 this camp to assemble in the radio
 room immediately. Fully dressed.
 Bring medical supplies, provisions,
 and every weapon we've got.

CARRINGTON
 Your window - is it - was it the - ?

HENRY
 It was. I'll give you all a full
 report in the radio room. Get going,
 Doctor - you, too, Eddie. Round
 everybody up. Get 'em barricaded
 before it comes back!

DISSOLVE TO:

56 INTERIOR RADIO ROOM - 2:30 A.M.

Beyond the radio room is a short underground passage
 leading into the generator room.
 All the members of the expedition, save Henry, MacAuliff
 and Hendrix are in the radio room.
 Chapman is putting final touches on a bandage on Nikki's
 arm.
 Two workers are nailing shut the trap door that leads to
 the observation tower.
 Henry enters with Hendrix and MacAuliff following.

HENDRIX
 (to Henry)
 ...not during the storm, Captain.
 But soon's it blows over I can get
 the transmitter out of your plane
 and rig up a two-way communication
 with Dutch Harbor.

Henry nods. MacAuliff has
 taken two Geiger counters
 from a ruck-sack in the
 corner. He returns to Henry.

HENRY
 (to MacAuliff)
 Got 'em?
 (as MacAuliff shows him
 the counters)
 Eddie!

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

Dykes turns from where he has been supervising the workers at the trap door.

HENRY

I'm going to station you and Mac at each end of the corridor. Take a counter along. If it starts clicking, report back here on the double.

DYKES

(feelingly)

You bet.

HENRY

I'll put Nikki on the intercom. She'll keep checking with you, so we'll know if you get taken by surprise.

DYKES

(wryly)

That'll be a big help...

(He goes out
with MacAuliff)

HENRY

(to Nikki)

Got that, Nikki?

NIKKI

Yes. Where's the intercom?

HENRY

(pointing)

Over there. Hendrix'll show you.

Nikki pulls a chair over to the intercom panel. Hendrix moves to show her the levers that will connect her with Dykes and MacAuliff. Skeely emerges from the generator room and crosses to Henry.

SKEELY

Hey, Captain, what's the sense of everybody huddling in here? Let's get some acetylene torches and hand grenades and stuff and rush the greenhouse.

HENRY

It isn't in the greenhouse. I just checked.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN

How did it get out, Captain?

HENRY

Burned its way out. There's a big hole in the wall. Still hot.

SKEELY

(incredulous)

Burned its way through an iron wall?

HENRY

It's radio-active.

CHAPMAN

(solemnly)

Probably can generate enough heat to burn its way through anything.

NIKKI

(into intercom)

All right, Eddie? Over.

EDDIE'S VOICE

Nothing yet.

NIKKI

(into intercom)

All right, Mac? Over.

MACAULIFF'S VOICE

All quiet here.

At twenty second intervals,
Nikki, Eddie and MacAuliff
repeat the same ritual.

SKEELY

I still say we ought to corner that thing in the greenhouse. That's where it's growing its stuff -- it'll go back there --

ERICSON

(growling)

Corner it with what, you dumb joker? Insect powder?

AMBROSE

(coming up)

I've got enough cable to reach the nursery, Captain. Suppose we electrocute it?

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN

It might be immune to electricity.

REDDING

(coming up)

It's not. I tried it, on one of those horrible sprouts.

Carrington has been sitting nearby, his head in his hands. He looks up angrily.

CARRINGTON

You destroyed them!

REDDING

Only one. It disintegrated under five hundred volts and burnt to an ash.

CARRINGTON

I forbid you to do any more tampering! Our orders are clear. We are to wait --

HENRY

(curtly)

I'm giving the orders.

Carrington looks at Henry for a moment, then rises and goes into the generator room. Henry ignores him.

HENRY

(to Redding)

I think you've got something, Doctor.

AMBROSE

(eagerly)

Shall I run the cable into the greenhouse?

HENRY

Our pal isn't going back there.

AMBROSE

But those things in the greenhouse are growing...They must need -- nourishment.

REDDING

(to Henry; protesting)

You can't anticipate its moves. Its mind is of a different nature than ours.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

A mind at war is always the same --
whether it's hatched in Tokyo or Mars.
We know the thing's objective.

SKEELY

What?

HENRY

(nodding at Ambrose)

Nourishment. Blood, and all the blood in
the camp is in this room. He'll be
coming down the pike any minute now.

As Henry speaks his eyes
have been roving around the
room.

CHAPMAN

Perhaps we'd be wiser to disperse --

HENRY

He'd got us one at a time.

SKEELY

(eyeing Henry)

So what do we do?

HENRY

We give him a welcome home party.
(he points to the corridor
that leads to the generator
room)

In that tunnel. And a great, big
hotfoot.

(he turns to Redding)

Got any chicken wire - cattle fence
wire -- any kind of wire webbing?

REDDING

Yos -- rolls of it.

HENRY

(to Ericson)

Ken, take two men and help Doctor
Redding bring the wire out. Lay it in
that passage way. Then string it along
the roof.

SKEELY

Like a fly trap!

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(to Ambrose, as Ken follows Redding out)

Splice your cable to the webbing. And fix up an operating switch on a long wire - about thirty feet. How many volts can you give me?

AMBROSE

Over a thousand.

HENRY

That enough?

AMBROSE

I earnestly hope so.

HENRY

Get going, Doctor.

Ambrose runs out. Nikki's exchanges with Dykes and MacAuliff have been continuing at regular intervals. Now Nikki turns to Hendrix.

NIKKI

Take over for me, please, Mr. Hendrix.

Hendrix sits at the intercom and starts checking with the sentinels as Nikki goes to Henry. She pulls at his sleeve.

Pat, don't you feel it? It's getting cold.

HENRY

(paying no attention)

Everybody who's not working get back in the generator room. Make it snappy, please.

NIKKI

Pat, I tell you I'm getting cold.

HENRY

You sick?

NIKKI

No, you dunce. It's cold. The heat must be off.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(calling to Chapman)
What's the thermometer reading?

CHAPMAN

(glancing at a wall thermometer)
Fifty-four. I thought it was
getting chilly

SKEELY

It sure is.

CHAPMAN

(still staring at the
thermometer)
It's going down fast.

HENRY

(placing his hand over
a heat vent)
There's no heat at all coming
through the vents.

CHAPMAN

We've got three furnaces. They
couldn't all break down at once.

SKEELY

(looking at the thermometer
over Chapman's shoulder)
Going down. Forty-nine!

CHAPMAN

Someone better go to the furnace room.

HENRY

No, Doctor. There's nothing
wrong with the furnaces.

NIKKI

Must be, Henry. Why aren't they working?

HENRY

Because they've been turned off.
By our visitor.

SKEELY

Holy Ike. He's gonna freeze us out!

HENRY

And come in after us when we're
numb or dead with cold.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

What a practical joker. Reminds me
of General Rommel when we were "it."

CHAPMAN

(reading from the thermometer)
Forty-five now.

SKEELY

And it's sixty below outside.

Redding, Ericson and two other scientists have emerged
from the storeroom with the wire rolls. They start to
execute Henry's orders.

HENRY

(to Chapman)
How many flying suits are there,
Doctor?

CHAPMAN

Eight, counting yours. And one
electric blanket.

The telegraph instrument starts to chatter.

HENDRIX

(calling)
Nikki.

NIKKI

Coming.

She replaces Hendrix at the intercom panel. Hendrix
starts taking down the telegraph message.

HENRY

(to Chapman)
Leave me one for Nikki. Take the
others in the generating room and
tell the folks to take turns
wearing 'em. Ten minute shifts.

Chapman moves to obey.

SKEELY

Our friend's quite a boy. Figures all
the angles.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY
(staring at the wiring)
Lucky thing we got Edison and
Einstein on our side.

SKEELY
(quietly)
Wonder if they're going to be enough.

HENRY
(equally quietly)
I was wondering the exact same thing.

ERICSON
(working)
My fingers are getting numb.

SKEELY
(walking up and down to
warm himself)
I remember once in Accra, in
equatorial Africa --

ERICSON
Shut up. Nobody's listening.

HENDRIX
Message for you, Captain.

HENRY
Hold it.
(to Chapman who is returning
for another load of flying suits)
Got any rubber boots in that storeroom?

CHAPMAN
Plenty of them.

HENRY
Get us four pairs, will you.

Chapman goes to the storeroom.

SKEELY
What're the boots for?

HENRY
So nobody gets burned accidentally
when I turn the juice on.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY
 (calling after Chapman)
 Make that five pair, Doctor!

DYKES' VOICE
 (over intercom)
 It's coming!

NIKKI
 (relaying the warning)
 Pat! It's coming!

HENRY
 (to Nikki)
 Call Mac in!
 (to the wire workers)
 Almost finished?

REDDING
 (working frantically)
 Another minute..

AMBROSE
 (calling from the other
 end of the corridor)
 All ready on this end!

Henry has moved to the door. He opens it. MacAuliff and Dykes come running in. Henry shuts and bolts the door behind them.

DYKES
 (panting)
 The counter's going. The reading's low, but it's going up. Oh, boy, it's cold!

He hands the counter to Henry. Chapman has come out of the storeroom with the boots. Skeely takes a pair, and the others are dumped at the entrance of the passage-way.

HENRY
 (jerking his head toward the
 generator room)
 Nikki - back there. Get going.
 (to the others)
 Get those boots on, boys.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

He starts to pull on a pair himself. Carrington comes out of the generator room. He looks at the cable hook-up Ambrose has made, then glances up quickly at the wire-web installed by Redding, etc.

REDDING

That does it. All set, Captain.

HENRY

Okay, everybody in the back room but Army personnel.

Carrington strides up to Henry. His face is working emotionally. He is about to address Henry, when Hendrix speaks up.

HENDRIX

How about your message, Captain?

HENRY

Let's have it.

HENDRIX

(reading)

MacLaren to Henry. Use every means to save lives of expedition. But take no steps against captive. Expect to relieve you in three days. Hold out well as you can. Your main objective is to keep creature alive until our arrival. Congress, President, Chiefs of Staff, all superiors consider survival of captive creature greatest triumph for our civilization.

DYKES

The biggest heroes are always back of the lines, eh?

HENRY

(grimly)

Well- that's that.

SKEELY

(quietly)

How does that affect your plans, Captain?

HENRY

Not at all.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(intensely)

You can not ignore your orders,
Captain! They come from sources
that know more than you!

Henry finishes donning his boots. He stands up, and
glances coolly at Carrington.

HENRY

We'll discuss that some other time.
(pointing to the
rear door)
Inside, folks.

Carrington stands glaring at Henry. He makes an effort
to control the fury in him.

CARRINGTON

(vibrantly)

You're defying orders from your superiors,
Captain Henry. You've been directed
to preserve the life of this interplanetary
creature at all costs.

DYKES

(from the thermometer)

The temperature is now thirty above.

SKEELY

Perfect for ski-ing.

CARRINGTON

(tensely to Henry)

You are an officer in the United
States Army in charge of a military
mission. You have received instructions
from your general - and from every
department of the government on how
to proceed.

HENRY

It's no fun breaking orders, Doctor.
But my duty -

CARRINGTON

(cutting in sharply)

Your duty is to the Army you represent!

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(quietly)

My first duty as a man is to the human race. There's an enemy of it coming after us. I'm going to kill it.

Redding enters from the corridor. He hands Henry a switch on the end of a long wire.

REDDING

Here's your operating switch.

HENRY

Thanks.

Redding glances curiously at Carrington and returns toward the rear room. Dykes is standing by the intercom panel. He pushes a button. A subdued squealing comes out of the communicator.

HENRY

(sharply)

What's that?

DYKES

I've got the intercom open to the greenhouse. Listen to them.

As he talks the room fills with an insistent mewing as if from a myriad of voices.

HENRY

Your friends sound hungry, Carrington.

SKEELY

(as the voices rise)

They must be big boys now.

DYKES

The wild carrots are coming - !

CARRINGTON

(his voice rising in anger)

You're doing more than breaking Army orders, Captain! You're robbing the human mind!

HENRY

You can testify to that effect at my court martial, Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON

(tensely - and controlling himself again)

A secret has come to us, greater than any secret ever revealed to science. It must not be destroyed! It must be studied - and learned.

HENRY

(quietly)

I saw it, Carrington. It's not something to put under glass - and examine. And there are thousands more of them hatching. They'll reproduce like weeds. They'll tear the world apart.

CARRINGTON

That doesn't matter!

HENRY

(softly)

It kind of matters to me.

CARRINGTON

(growing wilder)

Knowledge is more important than life, Captain. We have only one excuse for existing - to think, to find out, to learn what is unknown.

DYKES

We haven't a chance to learn anything from that pooky Martian, except a quicker way to die, Doctor.

HENRY

I'm ordering you back, Carrington.

CARRINGTON

(full of a curious fury)

It doesn't matter what happens to us! We're not animals. We're a brain that thinks! Nothing else counts, except our thinking. We've thought our way into nature. We've split the atom -

DYKES

Yeah, and that sure made the world happy, didn't it!

The mewing out of the wall speaker increases.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

I've ordered you out, Carrington.

CARRINGTON

(wildly)

We owe it to the brain of our species to stand here and die without destroying a source of wisdom! Captain, I beseech you. Science, government, the Army - civilization has given us orders.

HENRY

(grimly)

They're wrong orders. They come from people who don't know what they're talking about.

SKEELY

I'm with you there, Henry. In a pinch I always put my money on a little man - against all top brass.

CARRINGTON

(wildly to Henry)

You set yourself above all human progress, above all science!

HENRY

(quietly)

I set myself against an enemy, Carrington.

MACAULIFF

Come on, Doctor. You've said your piece. This is one time when science doesn't blow up the world ...just to see what makes it tick.

DYKES

(suddenly)

The Geiger!

He picks up the counter. It is clicking more rapidly.

HENRY

Inside, Carrington.

Dykes seizes Carrington. The Doctor goes with him.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON
 (from the door into the
 underground passage)
 You're fools! You'll never hurt it!
 It's wiser, stronger -

DYKES
 Shut up - !

He pushes Carrington into the passage into the generator room. Nikki, Chapman and Hendrix follow. Dykes shuts the door behind them and then rejoins the group in the radio room. It consists of Henry, MacAuliff, Ericson, Skeely and Dykes. Henry turns and sees Skeely.

HENRY
 Sorry, Skeely. These are front lines.
 No civilians allowed.

SKEELY
 That does not include the Press,
 Captain.

HENRY
 Get in with the others, Skeely.
 You don't belong here.

SKEELY
 (grinning)
 I didn't belong at Alamein or
 Bouganville - or Okinawa. Just
 hung around as a kibitzer. I am
 also a very good obit writer.
 Ignore me, please.

Henry grins and decides to ignore him. He turns to Dykes.

HENRY
 You got the Geiger, Eddie.

DYKES
 Yeah, no change.

MACAULIFF
 The temperature is now twenty-two.

HENRY
 Keep moving around. That'll help
 a little.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

ERICSON

(trying to keep his
voice casual)

Excuse me, Pat, but wouldn't it
be a better idea to wait at the
other end of the tunnel.

HENRY

No, Ken. We receive in here.

DYKES

Any reason, Pat?

HENRY

Psychology. Our boy seems kind
of smart. He's going to notice
an empty room - and a lot of fence
wire laid. And sit down to think
it over - for a few hours. But
if it finds us out here waiting,
he'll chase us back into the trap.

SKEELY

Providing we are able to move.

HENRY

That's right.

SKEELY

Frozen bait, eh?

MACAULIFF

How can it get cold so quick?
(to Dykes)
You're turning blue.

HENRY

Keep moving, boys.

They pace.

ERICSON

Must be zero.

DYKES

(from the thermometer)
Was. Next step five below.

MACAULIFF

Come, Mr. Martian - and get some
nice Scotch blood - 110 proof.
Nothin' like it for babies!

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

ERICSON

(pacing)

Cut it out - !

MACAULIFF

I never thought I'd be in a hurry
to see that lad again.

ERICSON

(gesturing toward
the intercom from
which the mewing noises
are still issuing -
now in a sudden
crescendo)

Those things give me the fantods.
Okay if I shut it off, Captain?

SKEELY

No, don't. I like the gooseflesh.
Keeps me warm.

There is a moment or two of silence. The men keep
moving and swinging their arms.

DYKES

I don't hear the Geiger.

HENRY

It's going.

ERICSON

Faster?

HENRY

Two points.

DYKES

Then he's on his way!

MACAULIFF

Maybe. I got a worry.

DYKES

(to Henry, saluting
like a courier)

Report from the front, Captain.
Brother MacAuliff has a worry.

MACAULIFF

It's no joke.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

ERICSON

(tensely)
Spill it!

MACAULIFF

What if it can read our minds?

DYKES

(pacing)
It's going to be sore when it
gets to you - a blank page.

MACAULIFF

(angrily)
They're working on telepathy in
this country ain't they? So they've
probably got it on Mars, considerin'
the superior type of carrots they
produce. So it knows everything
we're sayin' and thinking and it'll
wait till we're froze stiff in our
own trap before it -

HENRY

(sharply)
It's coming closer.
(the mewling has
stopped. There
is silence. The
Geiger counter
is heard clicking)
Up two more points.

DYKES

(pats Henry on the back)
A real strategist. You'll be a
general yet.

SKEELY

Not a chance. Not enough fat
in his head.

ERICSON

(staring at the counter
in Henry's hand)
It's standing still now.

DYKES

Getting its wind.

HENRY

Keep moving -

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

SKEELY

(as he paces)

I remember the first electrocution
I ever covered. Ruth Snyder and
Judd Grey. I'll never forget how
Madam Snyder bounced in the chair
when they gave her her last permanent.
We were all watching her eyes and -

HENRY

(sharply)

Hold it!

Skeely becomes silent. The quickened clicking of the
Geiger fills the room.

DYKES

(softly)

Thar she blows!

HENRY

(his voice precise)

When it comes in, you get into
the passage first, Skeely.

(he points to the
opened passage door)

You next, Ken. Then Mac, then
Eddie. Got that?

(the men nod)

Don't start falling back till its
in the room and sees us. I'll
carry the switch. Take care when
I turn the juice on that you don't
touch the walls. You'll get
electrocuted if you do.

MACAULIFF

What if the thousand volts aren't
enough, Pat?

DYKES

Five hundred burned one of the
sprouts.

MACAULIFF

You can kill a baby with a fly
swatter - you need a baseball bat
for a man. How do we know it
won't walk right through.

HENRY

(curtly)

We don't know. But we'll find out.
All set?

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

DYKES

(quietly)

Yes, sir.

The Geiger counter is now clicking loudly. Holding axes and hatchets in their gloved hands, the men take their positions as Captain Henry indicated.

HENRY

(quietly)

If the voltage doesn't stop it, keep swinging at its arms.

MACAULIFF

(suddenly)

It's outside! It's coming in!

A creaking of wood comes from the doorway.

SKEELY

Yeah, we got a caller.

HENRY

Wait till it shows - before you move!

At this moment the lights go out.

SKEELY

(in the dark)

What the holy --!

MACAULIFF

(calling in the dark)

The juice is off!

ERICSON

(bawling out in the dark)

Put on the lights.

The Geiger clicking and the mewling fill the darkness. The outline of the door begins to glow in the dark, as the Creature burns away at it.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

NIKKI'S VOICE

(yelling)
Pat!! Pat! Carrington's
disconnected the generator!

HENRY'S VOICE

Mac! Come with me! Eddie -
hold that thing back as long as
you can!

DYKES

Roger -

REDDING'S VOICE

(calling down the
passageway)
Captain Henry - Watch out -
Carrington's got a gun!

We hear the sound of feet crashing against the wire webbing as Henry and MacAuliff run along the tunnel. The doorway's outline continues to glow more brightly.

DISSOLVE TO:

57 INT. GENERATOR ROOM

It is entirely dark. Henry's flashlight stabs into the room. It swivels around quickly, pausing briefly on Nikki's panicky face, flashing over the frightened faces of the others, then finding Carrington. Carrington stands with a gun in his hand, staring wildly.

CARRINGTON

(as the flashlight
hits him)
I'll shoot! I'll shoot if anyone
touches that generator!

Henry's response is to charge forward. He grabs the revolver with one hand, and hits Carrington with the other. Carrington falls unconscious, alongside the generators. Henry seizes Carrington's revolver.

HENRY

(as he retrieves
the revolver)
Mac! Redding! Get those
generators connected!

(CONTINUED)

57 (CONTINUED)

He darts out as Mac and Redding turn their flashlights on the generator and fall to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

58 INT. RADIO ROOM

The redly glowing door begins to fall inward. As it topples, Dykes' voice is heard.

DYKES

Never mind the guns, Use your axes!

The Creature stands revealed in the doorway radioactivity causes it to shimmer weirdly in the dark. It pauses a moment in the doorway, then moves toward the little group in the mouth of the passageway.

HENRY'S VOICE

(in the dark)

Fall back, fellows - Get going, Skeely! You next, Ken! Move!

The group retreats in order down the passageway. The Thing pauses at the entrance of the corridor.

MACAULIFF'S VOICE

(in the dark)

All connected - Okay, Pat --

The tunnel lights begin to glow redly, revealing the Army group retreating over the fence wire. The Creature is advancing toward them, but has not yet entered the trapped tunnel.

ERICSON

It's connected! What're you waiting for, Pat?

(CONTINUED)

58 (CONTINUED)

HENRY

(coolly)

I'm waiting to catch it in the
middle of the tunnel, Ken.
Take it easy, son.

At this moment there comes the sound of a scuffling from the generator room. A figure bursts out into the tunnel, as we hear a chorus of "Grab him," "Shut the door," "Hold him - he's crazy," etc. The figure is Carrington. He pushes by Henry, Dykes and the rest of the Army group, and runs the length of the corridor. He comes to a halt at the far end of the corridor, facing the Creature. Carrington, only a few feet away from the unearthly visitor, extends his arms in a pleading gesture.

HENRY

(during this)

Grab him! Eddie! Stop him!

DYKES

Too late. Shall I go get him?

HENRY

(after a split second)

No. No, Eddie, don't. Fall
back.

The Army group continues to retreat.

CARRINGTON

(his face dimly
visible in the
refracted light
of the Creature's
phosphorescence)

Listen to me - I'm your friend!
Look, my hands are in the air -
I have no weapons - I'm your
friend - you must understand
that. You're wiser than I -
you must understand I'm trying
to help you - Don't come any
further. They'll kill you!!
Look at me, I'm defenseless -
you must see that I don't mean
to hurt you - I want to know
you - to help you -

(CONTINUED)

58 (CONTINUED)

CARRINGTON (cont'd)

Believe me! You have a greater intelligence than anything on Earth - Use it - use it - look at me and know what I'm trying to tell you - I'm not your enemy - I'm a scientist - a scientist!

The Creature has paused before Carrington's tirade as if studying him. Now, without haste, it lifts one arm, and flicks its hand at Carrington's throat. Carrington falls to the floor almost decapitated, his last words still gurgling in his throat. The Creature steps over Carrington's corpse and enters the tunnel. It advances five or six steps.

HENRY

(crying sharply)

Watch out! Here we go!

He presses the switch in his hand. A bombardment of huge sparks leaps from coiling to floor. The Creature is caught in the lightning flashes. It stands motionless as the thousand volt bolts crack through it from head to foot. In front of it stand the five men - axes ready, and weirdly visible in the spitting light. The Creature begins to glow like a filament, then bursts into flame. It sinks to the ground.

HENRY

Don't move anybody!

SKEELY

(pointing a small camera)

Keep that light going! I got him! I got him!

(CONTINUED)

58 (CONTINUED)

The Creature's form melts in the flames. As it dwindles away, Henry ends the spark bombardment. The lights of the passage come up full. The men move toward the heap of ashes remaining of the Creature.

HENRY

(to Mac)

Go tell them it's over - and to get the furnace going.

As MacAuliff moves to obey, Chapman, Nikki and a number of the refugees come out of the generator room.

NIKKI

Dr. Carrington - what happened to him.

HENRY

(quietly)

He's dead.

SKEELY

(to Henry. Kneeling over Carrington's remains.)

A clean sweep, Captain. Both monsters are dead.

DISSOLVE

59 INT. RADIO ROOM 7 A.M.

The wind is still blowing, the snow still swirling outside the tower windows.

Hendrix sits exhausted at his radio sending panel.

Skeely is hoarse and almost out on his feet with sleep. He drinks coffee. A coffee pot is boiling over on an electric stove beside him.

Captain Henry sits on the cot bed. He is trying to stay awake.

CHAPMAN

(to Henry)

Those pills taking hold?

HENRY

(foggily)

I'll say.

CHAPMAN

Don't fight them. Relax.

HENRY

I've got to --

(CONTINUED)

59 (CONTINUED)

CHAPMAN

That can all wait. First you have got
to rest. We all do.

He goes out.

SKEELY

(drinking coffee)

She clear?

HENDRIX

Just a minute.

(into mike)

Dutch Harbor, can you hear me?

VOICE

(back out of radio)

Dutch Harbor - reception clear.

SKEELY

(excited and hoarse)

I'm on!

VOICE

General Fogarty standing by for
Captain Henry.

HENRY

(eyes closed)

Coming -- I'm coming.

Instead he sinks onto the cot bed.

SKEELY

(at the microphone)

North Pole, November 15 - Ned
Skeely reporting -

VOICE

(coming back)

General Fogarty standing by for
Captain Henry.

SKEELY

(into mike)

Tell General Fogarty to read it in the
papers. Flash. The world's greatest
battle was fought and won today by
the human race. Here at the top of
the world a handful of American
soldiers and civilians wiped out the
first invasion from another planet.

(CONTINUED)

59 (CONTINUED)

VOICE

(over radio)

Captain Henry - come in. General
Fogarty standing by.

As Skeely continues to broadcast, Nikki enters. She looks around sleepily. She sees Henry stretched out on the cot bed, goes to him and starts shaking him awake. But nothing will rouse him.

Failing to bring Henry to wakefulness, Nikki smiles sleepily and stretches out in the cot beside him. She closes her eyes.

Henry opens his eyes and looks at her foggily. He tries to embrace her but cannot.

HENRY

(drowsily)

Untie me, honey.

NIKKI

You bet I will. Tomorrow.

Henry sticks his nose into her neck and falls happily asleep.

During this Skeely is broadcasting.

SKEELY

(answering voice)

Stand by, all newspapers! Flash continued! This first skirmish for the possession of the earth by the creatures from space was won by the daring leadership of Captain Patrick Henry. Noah once saved the world with an ark of wood. Captain Henry performed a similar service for our planet with an arc of electricity. But, ladies and gentlemen of the globe - there is an enemy hovering over our heads - an enemy with an armada of flying saucers, and an army of super human and fantastic warriors. Every citizen of the world must become a sentinel watching the skies. Keep looking for the next flying saucer - watch the skies, watch everything over your head - throw a ring of watch towers around the earth - Keep looking - looking - looking -

FADE OUT

The End