

Antarctica



"All passengers prepare for a crash landing!"

I heard over the intercom of my plane. It was the year 2005 and I was on my way to Argentina to visit my relatives when my plane experienced high turbulence due to a rapidly growing snowstorm. We were told to buckle up and put on our oxygen masks. Suddenly, I heard a boom and my head seemed to fly off my neck. I looked up and saw a big gap in the roof. I looked out my window and sweat poured down my face. We were plunging downwards toward an endless field of whiteness. Then, I heard metal crunching down, and felt a sudden jolt. Finally, I blacked out. When I woke up someone was tapping me.

"Who are you?" I asked.

"Hey! You are awake, my name's Matt. I'm another passenger on the plane." Matt responded.

I knew that we had crashed. When I left the plane, I knew where I was. I was in the frozen desert of Antarctica.

I immediately felt the freezing winds as they made me as cold as a popsicle. All I could see was endless snow and ice. I stood there for a moment questioning what this would mean. I quickly realized that eventually I would freeze to death if I did not have anything to keep me warm.

"Hey Matt! Why don't you find some firewood, so we don't all freeze to death." I shouted.

"Yeah, clever idea!" He responded.

For the first time ever, I heard an extreme silence, like nothing dared to make a noise. Before long, I heard Matt coming with firewood. We were able to make a fire and I could instantly smell the smoky air around me. My mouth was watering at the thought of freshly caught salmon, but the image quickly faded as I remembered where we were. The coldest, windiest, and surprisingly the driest place on the planet. We would have to persevere and cooperate if we were to survive this predicament.

Since we figured we would be there for a while, Matt and I decided to walk around and check out our surroundings. Then, I saw something other than snow, it was the ocean. I quickly realized it was the Southern Ocean, as Antarctica is at the south pole. Suddenly, out of nowhere I heard a low-pitched roar. *GRRRRRRRRRRR*, I turned around and I saw a massive Leopard Seal

approaching. My heart missed a beat as I stood in awe. I was too scared to do anything. Abruptly, the sea leopard pounced on me and Matt. We screamed in pain as teeth sank into our legs and blood gushed out and stained the snow red. Our screams must have caught someone's attention because moments after the attack two men wearing white coats ran toward us. They were able to chase off the seal, but Matt and I were still seriously injured.

"Help! We've been attacked by a seal, and I don't how injured I am an..." I screamed to the men.

"Save your breath, if you're going to survive this, you'll need it." One of the men replied.

"Who are you? What are you doing in Antarctica?" I asked them.

"I'm Dr. Smith and this is Dr. Jordan. We've come here to research the landscape in and around the continent. We had just made it to our lab when we heard your screams." Dr. Smith told us.

"Do you have any First Aid equipment to treat our wounds?" Matt asked.

"Um, yes sure, right Dr. Smith? Said Dr. Jordan

"Yeah of course!" Dr. Smith responded to his partner.

The two scientists began to lift Matt and I up off the ground and started to carry us away. After walking for a while, they took us to vehicles I had never seen before. Dr. Jordan told us they were arctic pickup trucks modified to be able to tackle the arctic terrain. They put us onto the bed of the truck before getting in the vehicles themselves. They took us to their lab and laid us on a table. They gave us bandages when something popped in my head. How would Matt and I ever be able to leave Antarctica? So, I decided to ask Dr. Smith and Dr. Jordan if they knew a way out.

"Hey Dr. Smith!" I spoke up.

"Yeah?" Dr. Smith responded in confusion

"Do you guys know a way for Matt and me to be able to leave Antarctica? I asked him hopefully.

"There is one way. A plane comes every night at 10:00 PM to drop off supplies and make sure Dr. Jordan and I are okay. You could leave on that plane." Dr. Smith said

"Really? Thank you!" I responded with glee.

"Do you want to read this book about this big blob of ice while you wait?" Dr. Smith asked.

"Sure, I have nothing better to do." I responded

Dr. Smith threw me an old run-down book that said *ANTARCTICA: The Frozen Desert*. I began to skim through the ancient book. Some things that shocked me were that more than 3,000 people work in Antarctica, Matt and I had only met two! (Dr. Smith and Dr. Jordan.) Secondly, it says that penguins do NOT live year-round in Antarctica. PENGUINS! Where else would they live! Finally, it says it is WINTER in JUNE in Antarctica, not to mention that there are only TWO HOURS of daylight during the winter.

"Hey Dr. Smith! Some of these facts are INSANE!" I shouted.

"Kid, this place is like another planet!" He responded.

"Seriously." I mumbled under my breath.

"What time is it?" I asked Dr. Jordan who had come over.

"9:30 PM. Why?" He stated.

"Shouldn't we start heading to that plane?" I asked.

"Yeah, smart idea." Dr. Jordan spoke.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Jordan put on thick, heavy coats and gave both Matt and I coats to wear too.

"It will keep you warm, since it's around -5° Fahrenheit." The scientists told us.

"Alright, we should get going if we are to make this plane." Matt said.

"One problem, we can't take the trucks." Dr. Jordan announced.

"What! Why not?" I inquired.

"If it's below 0° Fahrenheit then the engines will be too cold to function correctly." Dr. Jordan replied.

"So, we are walking." I said gloomily.

"Sadly, yes." Dr. Smith answered.

Dr. Jordan led the way out of the laboratory and into the arctic environment. The snowstorm started to pick up speed as we trudged through the frozen terrain. We had been walking for an eternity when the wind became so strong that we could not move any further. We had to dig our fingers into the ice-cold snow just so that we did not get blown away! But I could tell Dr. Smith was not doing so well. I watched as his feet were flying backwards and his hands were slowly losing their grip on the frigid snow beneath us.

"Dr. Smith, grab my hand." I said in a desperate voice.

"No, I can't I'm too heavy for you." Dr. Smith responded.

"Bu-But you'll die if you lose grip." I spoke.

"And if I grab you, we will both die." He retorted.

"I must go. Goodbye." He said in a sad tone.

"Goodbye Dr. Smith." I said full of sorrow.

I watched as Dr. Smith got pulled by the wind and slowly disappeared into nothingness. Moments later, the winds started to slow down, and I was able to stand up. I told Dr. Jordan of the tragic death of his friend.

"He will be remembered. Always." Dr. Jordan said with grief in his voice.

"He was a great friend and always joked around with me when I was bored." Matt spoke melancholy.

"I agree and I think he should be honored for dying for us, but he would want us to keep going." I said wistfully.

We walked the rest of the way without a word exchanged between us. At last, we made it to the runway. We watched as the plane soared ahead and landed on the rough road.

"Are you coming with us?" I asked Dr. Jordan.

"I was not planning to, but I will have to go to talk to Dr. Smith's family." Dr. Jordan responded with a sigh.

We got on the plane and flew off. The pilot told us we were heading to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA because Dr. Jordan is an American scientist. But eventually, I was able to get back to my home in Seoul, South Korea.

1 YEAR LATER...

It has been about a year since my ordeal in the Antarctic and the date is November 27th, 2006. I watched it as the snow fell for the first time since March. I felt a pang of sadness as the cold cotton balls reminded me of the harsh time I spent on the frozen continent. I mourned for Dr. Smith who died a heroic death, trying to get Matt and I home. My time there taught me that there are so many things in the world that we never think about. Because we always have access to things like food, water, and a warm house. But after spending time without easy access to those things I realized how blessed we are to have those things. We should always be thankful and not take things for granted. Suddenly, I heard a knock at the door. I went over to get the door, but when I opened it, I thought I was dreaming. I stood in shock at the man in front of me. It was Dr. Smith.

"Dr. Smith, how- how are you alive?" I asked in amazement and shock.

"Oh, you never saw my body, did you?" Dr. Smith said.

"No, but I assumed that it had floated out to sea." I responded.

"Never 'assume' anything. I was flying backward when the wind started to slow down. I thought I was going to die when I heard shouting in the distance, and I saw people coming. I was saved

just like Dr. Jordan and I saved you and Matt. I was sent to the United States of America and met up with Dr. Jordan and my family. I asked Dr. Jordan where you were, and he told me to come here." He spoke.

"I'm so happy you are alive!" I said.

"We will always remember what went on in Antarctica." Dr. Smith said.

I knew that for as long as I lived, I would never ever forget what happened on The Ice.

The End