

EXEC SYNOPSIS OF *BELOW THE ICE*

Antarctica: Icebreaker *Ava Rita* drops her cargo and turns for home with a skeleton crew of ten led by Captain Edwards. Later, Edwards orders a dive to inspect the props. During their stop scientists Jason and Maya discover the sea water has risen one degree -- warmer than it's been for thousands of years.

Under the ice, divers Chaz and Candy discover a prop cowling missing. Topside, the crew finds a frozen nude body on the ice. Before the divers resurface, they're attacked by a half-seen creature. The divers are pulled from the water. Chaz is dead and Candy is alive but comatose.

Biggs, the mechanic, Edwards, Jason and Maya search the ice for clues about the frozen body. The ice breaks and Jason almost falls into the water. As he struggles to hold on, The Beast's thick black tentacle rises from the water and attacks him. Maya shoots Jason in an act of mercy.

Connie, the scientist, explains to Doc that she's almost found how fish can survive in water below freezing. But the results of her experiments are iffy some fish survive freezing water while others die.

Ava Rita, obligated by maritime law, answers a distress signal. She gets close to the signal before dense ice stops her and Maya and Edwards snowmobile the rest of the way. They find the crippled Russian whaler *Yermak* canted with her prop in the air being crushed by the ice. Further investigation reveals The Beast to blame. As they leave Maya slips into the frigid water and loses proof of The Beast. Edwards rescues her just as *Yermak* sinks, taking the snowmobile with it. Edwards and Maya barely escape hypothermia before being rescued by Biggs.

Ultra-dense ice damages the unshielded prop and forces another stop. Biggs dives to check the damage sees The Beast nearby as it eats dead fish -- Connie's failed experiments dumped overboard by Fry, the ship's cook.

The Beast's tentacle pushes into the sick bay, steals away with Chaz and the frozen sailor, and kills Doc. Candy awakens from her coma and is taken by The Beast as well.

Biggs confirms one prop is shot and they decide to melt a channel in the ice to give *Ava Rita* the running room needed to gain the speed to break ice.

Biggs, Fry, and Edwards use a Bobcat with an auger attachment to dig two trenches in front of the *Rita* while second mate Kealy uses a rifle to provide cover. A jury rigged system connects *Rita's* diesel tanks to a portable pump and uses fire hoses to convey the diesel to the men on the ice.

On the bridge, Maya hears gunshots from the lab, and investigates with Edwards. They narrowly escape an encounter with The Beast and find Connie near death in her lab. Before she expires, she posits that her serum might be used to freeze The Beast. Before Edwards can leave, The Beast returns and he attempts to inject it. Before he can get the needle into The Beast, there's a sound of gunshots and it retreats.

Kealy shoots at The Beast and is torn in half when a second tentacle appears. The survivors ignite the diesel on the ice and their escape route appears. Biggs and Fry, still on the ice, encounter The Beast's tentacle. Fry uses the auger to score some damage, but their success is short-lived when another tentacle appears and pulls Fry and the Bobcat under the water.

Biggs attempts to inject the tentacle with Connie's serum but is whipped into the hull and slips under the water. Maya throttles up the *Rita* just as another tentacle attacks through the windows of the bridge. She fends off The Beast with an axe and runs toward the bow where the attack on Edwards continues. The Beast jerks the hose from the portable pump and diesel sprays everywhere. Edwards is lifted and about to be crushed but it drops him as the boat pinches the tentacle between the ice and bow. The Beast is about to finish Edwards off when Maya hits it with the axe. As The Beast turns on Maya, Edwards manages to inject The Beast with Connie's serum.

It works and The Beast's tentacle falls to the ice and splashes diesel into the remnants of fire from earlier. The diesel ignites and the fire spreads to the boat. Maya jumps and she and Edwards run as *Ava Rita* explodes.

Edwards and Maya wait for a rescue copter inside of a snow shelter. To their surprise Biggs appears. Later, a rescue copter arrives and the wind from the rotors tips the snow shelter over. Biggs, Maya and Edwards are gone. Only a ragged hole that exposes the black sea water remains.