

# Cold Blood

**Logline:** A ship responding to a distress call in the arctic circle rescues a young woman in a life boat who refuses to disclose what happened to her. An archaeological vessel researching the melting of the permafrost opens a tomb that should have remained closed.

## Themes we could explore:

- **Eco-Horror/ anxiety about the state of our world. Inspired by failed expeditions in the age of exploration, the melting of the permafrost and mythology.**
- Climate change: The cold is the great equaliser. It exposes the hubris of man and does not discriminate in its violence. The events of this story will only be possibly due to unseasonable weather, rapid thaw and rapid freeze. As the ice melts, it brings buried dangers with it.
- Hubris: The cold, it existed before us and it will be there when we are done.
- The declaration of something as impossible, only to find out it has been done before.

## Key story beats:

- A woman is rescued.
- Main character (Laura) gives her blood.
- *Laura is treated poorly by the crew/ The woman is treated poorly by a superstitious crew, only defended by Laura/ Laura is sympathetic to the Woman's view on climate change/ Laura shares the woman's misanthropy.*
- The crew of the Sheridan receive a mayday.
- They investigate and discover an open grave.
- The woman is revealed to be undead.
- The crew are slaughtered.
- The woman feeds Laura human remains. Neither are ever heard from again.

## Example Synopsis:

*(Example synopsis based on the key storybeats outlined above.)*

After receiving a distress call, Laura, a crew member on The Sheridan, spots a life boat floating amongst the fractured ice of the north passage. After bringing the vessel aboard, they discover a young woman inside, who is severely wounded. Being the ship's surgeon, Laura administers first aid and a blood transfusion. The woman seems catatonic, only waking late in the day. She shares a strong bond with Laura, but refuses to speak about what happened to her. Upon hearing that that ship is answering a distress call is able to help steer the ship towards the wreck she came from. During the journey, the poor sailing conditions are blamed on the presence of the woman.

An archaeological research vessel excavates three graves off of Beechey Island, Nunavut. They discover an ice mummy which appears to be a young woman wearing maritime sailing wear. The crew remove the body, intending to take it to the mainland as it is such an unusual specimen. During the return journey the ship becomes stuck in pack ice, and other than a single distress call none are ever heard from again.

Upon arriving at the wreck, the crew of the Sheridan discover the ship has become a desolate grave. Isolated and cold, the crew starts going missing one by one. Laura tries to radio in a mayday from the captain's cabin, where she finds pictures of the Ice mummy. The woman they rescued and the mummy are one and the same.

## Research:

- Research trip to the Royal Maritime Museum in Greenwich, to see actual artefacts recovered from the Franklin Expeditions.
- Research superstitions around women on ships and figure out if we can incorporate those into the story lore.
- Research similar expeditions to come up with a core cast of roughly 3-4 characters who would represent the larger crew.
- 2018 Limited TV Series 'The Terror' (well researched and inspirational in terms of set design.), '30 Days of Night', 'Perfect Blue', 'Carmilla' 2019.
- 'To Build a Fire' by Jack London (survival horror), 'Dark Matter' Michelle Paver, 'Carmilla' Sheridan LeFanu.

## Outcome

Short film of 10 minutes + trailer. Team of 5-7 people roughly (roughly 1:30/2 minutes per-person, in theory).

- Enjoy the horror genre.
- Confident drawing skills, anatomy and movement.
- Would like people with a musical/ sound design background to join in the later stages.
- This story would focus on a queer main character, so I would like people who are happy to enthusiastically represent queerness/ a lesbian relationship.



