

THE CLIMB

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EXT. EVEREST, CAMP 4 - DAY

HEAVY WINDS carry snow furiously through the air.
The famous Hillary's step beckons in the distance.
A tent is pitched in the ground, covered in snow.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

HEAVY BREATHING.

A hand drops a hump of snow into a pot.
The flames IGNITE as the boiling process begins.
The water slowly starts to melt and...

INT. TENT, BASE CAMP - 8 DAYS EARLIER

Continues to melt.

Six climbers (JOE, TONY, MATTHEW, DRAKE, NATHAN and MAX) sit huddled around the small flame.

JOE

Well ain't this nice. The best in the business all together ready for one last climb.

MATTHEW

You seem chirpy for a guy who's about to summit everest for the 11th time.

JOE

That's because, this is the year boys. The year I break the record for most climbs.

DRAKE

For an American you mean.

MAX

Shit Drake. Let the guy have his moment.

They all CHUCKLE except for Joe.

Matthew the most serious of the lot is rubbing his hands together trying to stay warm.

JOE

You guys should be honoured. Your
summiting with a future hall of
famer.

Everyone rolls their eyes and grins except for Tony.

TONY

I wouldn't be so cocky. We're not
far off those ten climbs.

Tony and Joe lock eyes for a moment. Silence from everyone.
It becomes serious pretty quickly.

The others are a little surprised. They all look at each
other as Tony and Joe keep their eyes locked.

A grin slowly appears on the face of Tony. The grin turns
into a light chuckle as everyone watches on in silence.

Tony's chuckle turns into a loud laugh.

TONY (CONT'D)

(to Joe)

Oh man you should of seen your
face. Just messing with ya bro.

They all follow Tony's lead, erupting in LAUGHTER. Joe
finally concedes and joins in.

EXT. BASE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The laughter ECHOES through the Himalayas.

EXT. CAMP 1 - DAY

SUPER: CAMP 1

The six climbers trudge through the deep snow. The trek is
fairly flat at this stage.

ON CAMERA:

JOE

Howdy everyone. We are here at Camp
one. The weather is just b-e-
autiful. Look at that sun.

(beat)

Say hi Matthew.

Joe points the camera at Matthew who smiles and shakes his head. The transmission goes fuzzy as Joe shuts the camera off.

They continue trudging through the snow as day turns to night.

INT. TENT, CAMP 1 - NIGHT

Black. Howling winds.

Joe opens his eyes to find himself alone in the tent. He regains his bearing and struggles to sit up.

Matthew and Nathan enter the tent.

Nathan fills up Joe's bottle with water from the pot and hands it to Joe.

NATHAN

How you feeling Joe?

JOE

What happened? Was I asleep?

MATTHEW

You blacked out.

JOE

What you mean blacked out?

NATHAN

We were approaching camp two and you started to get dizzy.

MATTHEW

I find it funny. An experienced climber like you blacking out.

NATHAN

I guess it happens to the best of us.

A moment of silence.

JOE

Where's everyone else?

NATHAN

They went ahead. Didn't wanna fall behind. The window for good weather is small this season.

(beat)

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)
We'll get some rest then head out
tomorrow.

EXT. KHUMBU ICEFALL - DAY

Joe, Matthew and Nathan approach the icefall.

In the distance they see Tony and Drake trying to climb
across the ladder that is laid out flat acting as a bridge to
the other side.

Drake is halfway across the ladder.

NATHAN
Hey where's Max?

TONY
I thought he was with you guys.

NATHAN
Why would he be with us?

MATTHEW
He probably just turned back. Let
me call base camp.

Joe starts to get dizzy again and...black

INT. CAMP 3, TENT - NIGHT

Black.

SUPER: CAMP 3

DRAKE (O.C.)
Joe? Joe wake up.

Joe opens his eyes to see Nathan above him in panic.

Joe slowly sits up.

JOE
I black out again?

NATHAN
Joe, weird shits going on. Base
camp said no sign of Max and the
blizzards getting worse.

JOE
What about the rest?

NATHAN
Drake fell in the ice fall. Dead.

JOE
He had ropes. I saw him.

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN
I thought so too. But they weren't
attached.

Joe holds his head as the dizziness comes back.

Black, then...

EXT. SUMMIT - DAY

SUPER: SUMMIT

Joe stands atop of Everest, alone.

JOE
Told ya I'd make it.

FADE TO BLACK.