

**GENRE**

Adventure, Thriller, Fantasy

**ONE LINER**

A young girl tries to find her home after escaping capture by brutal warriors intent on killing her mother, a Polar Bear.

**LOCATION**

Dystopian Winter World

**SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Set in a subarctic wasteland, a child raised by a polar bear is captured by a brutal hunting party. Making her escape, the young girl, guided only by the Polaris star, races ahead of the vindictive hunters with a prized companion in tow.

**PROLOGUE**

The world has upended, and we find ourselves in a remote part of the world, during forever-winter, where women endure a brutal lifestyle, reflective of a brutal environment, inherited from the brutal disregard of generations prior. This is a world where toxic green goo runs thicker than blood in fish and wild animals. The women number few within a massive territory, where everyone labours to survive. But, there are factions of Marauders (MORADS), who band together and use their collective brutality to raid, hunt, and remain formidable from attack. To be a Morad requires a relentless work ethic, enforced by peer accountability. In return, one might live longer because there is strength in community. To be other than a Morad is to risk attack from them – and requires an uncommon aptitude for survival.

**DIALOGUE**

The film is told from the point of view of the lead character, SUMI, a ten year old girl. As someone raised by an apex predator, she has an intimate relationship with nature and extraordinary survival skills: she can speak with animals and trees but has not yet learned to speak with people. Other humans speak fictional languages to represent this gap in understanding. This creates a primarily non-verbal experience that is strengthened by NOT having subtitles and helps to place audiences in the story world and encourages an emotionally immersive type of film-watching that is empathy-based, intuitive and universal.

## SUMMARY

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### ACT I

SUMI, a ten-year-old human child, travels with MAMA POLAR BEAR, her adopted parent, across a vast barren winter landscape. They pursue POLARIS, aka the North Star, as it plots a new course through the sky. When Sumi sees Polaris she claps her tattooed hands together and they glow. At night, Sumi and Mama fall asleep under the northern lights. Sumi is awakened by unfamiliar voices and sneaks off to investigate. She discovers her FIRST TREE and the two have a playful encounter that leads Sumi to discover a whole forest. When Sumi enters the forest she discovers unfamiliar tracks (human) that put her on guard. She moves with stealth, revealing her weapons: claws crafted from animal teeth strapped inside each hand. Hacked trees precede the discovery of MORAD WOODCHOPPERS – the first humans Sumi encounters. Fascinated, she becomes careless. Mama’s voice of caution echoes throughout the forest as the Morads yell in their language and give chase. Sumi narrowly escapes by tumbling down a cliff - only to land in front of GREENIE, a low ranking Morad, and STAG, the Morad leader. Stag whacks Sumi with her battle axe and Sumi falls unconscious.

### ACT II

Sumi awakes inside a cage transported by Greenie along an ice road to the Morad Outpost – a massive lot of junk vehicles - watched over by RED, the tower guard. Greenie taunts Sumi by removing the bandage covering Sumi’s right eye; revealing a hollow socket. A dog named TWO EYES watches with curiosity as Sumi tricks Greenie into a vulnerable position then kills her and opens the cage. Mindful not to be seen by Red, Sumi drags Greenie out of view. Her hands glow as she scoops out Greenie’s eyeball and places it in her hollow socket. The new eye settles as Sumi parkours her way through the Outpost to outmaneuver the Morads and escape.

From a mountain top Sumi spies Polaris in the distance. Two Eyes comes up from behind, barking to warn Sumi of approaching Morads. Sumi jumps off a precipice to avoid recapture. Free of the Morads, Sumi treks through the woods in search of Polaris. She follows sounds of music to discover DEE, a gas station attendant, playing the harmonica along the ice road. Intrigued, Sumi follows Dee home. Dee takes pity on Sumi and invites her to eat. Sumi is immediately struck by the candlelight and Dee shows her how to create fire. When Dee notices the tattoos on Sumi’s hand she bows in deference and uncovers a hidden wall panel with the same starry image. She gestures from Sumi’s tattoos to the night sky and says “Polaris”. Sumi repeats “Polaris” and approaches the window to see Polaris shining in the night sky. In another part of the land Mama Polar Bear also looks up at Polaris.

The next day, Sumi joins Dee at the gas station, hiding each time a Morad vehicle stops for gas. One of the vehicles swerves to a stop. The Driver is drunk and passes out; giving Sumi and Dee the chance to inspect a container carrying a FROZEN GIRL, dressed in a mask and refined clothing. The Driver awakes and fights Dee while Sumi hauls Frozen Girl into the woods. Dee kills the Driver, but is then killed herself when Stag arrives. Sumi watches from the bushes, devastated and powerless.

Sumi tows Frozen Girl through the snow until she discovers a junk cave. There, she makes a fire and uses the light to better study Frozen Girl. She gasps when she realizes Frozen Girl's heart has been removed. The next day Sumi spies Mama Polar Bear on a hill across the lake. She rushes across the ice towards her but is thwarted by the arrival of Red (from the Outpost) and HORNS, on snow machines. Horns chases after Sumi, and easily overpowers her, but Sumi manages to outsmart Horns. She kills her and commandeers the snow machine. Red races after Sumi. She is more formidable than Horns... but, still Sumi defeats her. Sumi drags Red back to the junk cave. Her hands glow as she transplants Red's heart inside of Frozen Girl.

Sumi places Frozen Girl by the fire. When Frozen Girl awakes with a new heart, she is skeptical of Sumi, but the two bond over their connection to music. At night Sumi points to Polaris in the night sky and the two follow it. In the morning they encounter a harsh blizzard and Frozen Girl gets lost. When Sumi locates Frozen Girl, she immediately makes a fire to warm her up. As Frozen Girl recovers Sumi hears voices from the trees letting her know that Mama Polar Bear is nearby. Ecstatic, Sumi leaves Frozen Girl to look for Mama, but is unsuccessful. When she returns to the fire, Frozen Girl is gone and a cavalcade of Morad vehicles is fast approaching. Sumi is caught off guard and doesn't see Stag until it is too late. Stag shoots a flaming arrow through Sumi's hand and Sumi disappears into the woods, running for her life.

### **ACT III**

Sumi's hand glows as it heals from the wound. Trees guide her towards a clear cut area – a place of slaughter (of trees). Sumi is overwhelmed with grief and collapses. Her hope renews when she discovers some of Mama Polar Bear's fur. At the same time, another of Stag's arrows flies past her. Now determined, Sumi charges Stag, dodging her arrows and launching a David vs. Goliath attack. But, ultimately, Sumi loses. Just as Stag makes her final blow Frozen Girl appears and shoots her from behind with an arrow. Stag stumbles; giving Sumi the advantage. Sumi kills Stag. Both fall. Frozen Girl rushes to save Sumi.

Guided by Polaris, Frozen Girl drags Sumi through the woods to an abandoned observatory flooded with water. Sumi awakens. Inside, she gifts her claws to Frozen Girl then descends into the water. Swimming underwater she is joined by Mama Polar Bear. Bubbles transition into stars in the night sky. Alongside them, Sumi and Mama Polar Bear also transition; becoming the constellations *Ursa Major* (the Big Dipper) and *Ursa Minor* (the Little Dipper... which is home to Polaris).