

"WHEREABOUT' S UNKNOWN"

Treatment for a Movie for Television

by David Goossen

An Original Story

Registered WGC# 4301

Log Line: Six friends, hoping for a secluded island vacation, battle the elements and each other when their plane crashes.

ACT I

Six friends decide to get away from the city for a long weekend. Two couples, CAROL and GLENN and NICK and HEATHER, along with their buddy JAMES and a friend of Nick's, from his travels in Europe, ALESHA. Fortunately, Glenn knows of a cabin within flying distance and he just happens to have his pilots license. So they're off, up the coast of British Columbia to a remote island for the weekend.

The six hour flight is starting to get boring and Glenn is showing off, flying down to show everyone the islands and inlets along the coast. Suddenly, the engine of the small seaplane suddenly stalls. Glenn instantly attempts to restart the plane while everyone starts to panic. But the plane won't start no matter how hard he tries. The only thing to do is land the plane near one of the deserted islands that dot the coast line and try make repairs or call for help. That decided and everyone calmed down and buckled in, Glenn lands the plane smoothly and coasts up to the rocky shore. At the last moment, the plane hits a submerged reef and topples forward onto its nose.

Camping equipment and people fly everywhere around the small cramped plane as it settles to a stop, nose facing almost straight down into the water. The radio has a tent pole through it, it's completely useless. Then, while everyone is attempting to climb off each other, the plane shudders and starts to sink into the cold water.

In a panic, everyone scrambles out, dragging what they can with them. Glenn stays behind tossing stuff out the open window into the water until the last minute, then climbs out and joins the rest of the group on shore. Fearing hypothermia, Carol strips out of her wet clothes and the rest reluctantly join her. As they watch, their plane stops sinking with only the tip of the wing and tail showing. They start to sort through what was tossed out of the plane. Most of the food either sank to the bottom or is

floating out to sea. Most of their luggage is on the bottom of the ocean or trapped in the plane. They've got very little to use. And they don't know where they are or how to get help.

Carol takes command and gets a fire going, her Girl Guide training coming in handy. Everyone lounges around the fire, drinking their wine and eating what little food they saved. Just another campfire at the beach with no concerns for tomorrow.

The next morning they wake from a rough night. The six of them are crammed into the three sleeping bags they were able to save. James and Alesha were forced to share one against their will. Glenn is starting to sulk about crashing the plane and no one is willing to make him feel better. Carol knows what he's like and how he does this so she ignores him and continues trying to get their make shift camp organized.

Then it starts to rain. A real West Coast deluge. Nick and Glenn try frantically to build a shelter over the existing campfire. Carol and Heather try to drag all their belongings under a nearby tree. Alesha and James are stuck in the middle of this power struggle between Glenn and Carol. But Carol finally wins as Nick and Glenn's shelter collapses onto the fire, smothering it.

cut to:

ACT II

And there they sit, huddled together underneath a tree, their sleeping bags damp, their clothes soaked, their remaining food wet and with no fire. As tensions mount and frustrations are unleashed in this confining situation, Carol once again takes control and heads off to find some dry tinder to start a fire while the rest bicker over who's to blame.

Night comes. It's still raining. They're still trapped underneath the tree. James and Alesha attempt to sleep without touching each other. Nick and Heather are doing nothing but touch each other and Glenn is getting upset with them as Carol sleeps beside him. As well as Nick and Heather's relationship is, Glenn and Carol isn't.

The next day. It's still raining. Food is running low, and there are bodily functions to be taken care of. In the rain. James is playing with his video camera. The one thing that he saved from the plane before it sunk. Everyone is bored. But the rain keeps coming down.

Despite all the tension, they all try to plan what to do. Everyone agrees to pull the plane out of the water, as soon as

they have a real shelter. Maybe they can fix it. The direction helps a little bit, but they're still trapped under the tree together.

That night, as the rains continue, James and Alesha turn to each other for comfort and warmth. And some love. Glenn listens to this for the second night in a row, massively depressed.

cut to:

ACT III

Alesha awakes to bright warm sunshine on her face. The rain is over! One by one they all get up and stretch, finally able to get out from under that damn tree. After a minimal breakfast, the sleeping bags are opened up to air out and the guys start working on a proper shelter, halfway between the Swiss Family Robinson tree house and the Taj Mahal. Alesha goes off to go to the bathroom, for the first time in two days, and Carol and Heather head off to find food and their whereabouts.

Carol and Heather wander through the forest. Carol is leading them towards a hill where they should be able to see the surrounding area for signs of civilization. While they walk, the girls discuss the collapse of Carol and Glenn's relationship and Heather's suspicion that Nick slept with Alesha during his trip to Europe. Meanwhile, back at the camp, the guys start building their new camp. Alesha returns from the forest to find the girls gone and the guys busy. By mistake, she leans on one of the walls and sends it crashing down, earning her the wrath of Glenn. Sobbing, she runs off into the forest to cry.

Carol and Heather make it to the top of the hill and look out at the ocean. No sign of life anywhere. They're trapped on a deserted island. Heather is starting to get scared. She never liked Guides and doesn't like what's happening. Carol is resigned to looking after everyone until they can be found and rescued.

While the guys continue to build, Alesha is wandering along the shoreline, moping, when she notices the plane has shifted again and is sinking even further. If it sinks too much, they won't be able to get it afloat again! They'll be really trapped!!

cut to:

ACT IV

Up on top of the mountain, Carol has wandered over to look off the other side of the hill and has found their way off the island. There's an Indian village off in the distance. All they have to do is get everyone else and hike over to it and they're saved.

With that problem taken care of, the girls forego searching for food and relax to do some serious suntanning.

Much to Nick and James' dismay, Glenn decides to dive down to the sinking plane and try and get out what he can. They can't pull the plane back, all their rope is in the plane. They have barely any food and nowhere to get more. Feeling responsible, he dives down and starts pulling anything that might help them out of the sinking plane. With a worried Alesha looking on, Nick and James decide to help Glenn and dive down to help him.

While the girls make their way back to the camp, Nick and James help pull soaked clothes and damp food up to the surface. The cold water is starting to affect them when they realize that Glenn hasn't come up in a while.

Diving down, they find him trapped inside the plane, with a small air pocket to breathe from. Fighting off the hypothermia that's starting to affect them, Nick and James try to get him free. Alesha runs off into the forest to find Carol and Heather. Can she find them in time?!?

cut to:

ACT V

Before Alesha can find the girls, Nick and James succeed in pulling the now unconscious Glenn to the surface. But they are so exhausted that getting him back to the camp and warmed up is almost impossible. But they have to or he's going to die. Once Alesha returns, they get Glenn stripped down and into a sleeping bag. James passes out briefly, the hypothermia is starting to affect him severely. Finally they find Nick's lighter and get a fire started. But that's not enough to help Glenn. Nick remembers that you've got to use your own body heat to warm up Glenn's. And Alesha's got the only warm body. But she's shocked at using her naked body to warm Glenn. She won't do it.

Carol and Heather break out of the forest just down the coast from the camp. Walking along, they find the soaked clothes and James' video camera sitting on the shore. Heading up to the camp, Carol is the first to realize that she's got three serious cases of hypothermia on her hands, Glenn the worst by far. Stripping down, she climbs into the sleeping bag with him, yelling at Heather to do the same with the now unconscious James. Heather quickly does so. It's at that point that Nick finally collapses. Carol tells Alesha to get Nick into a sleeping bag and join him. She doesn't want to. Especially with Heather right there. But it's either she gets Nick warm or he dies. Finally she does it. And

there they lie.

Later that night, as they continue to warm the guys, Carol gets Heather to go see what the guys brought up from the plane. She does and that gives Alesha a chance to move over to warming James. Heather returns with nothing. All they brought up was crap. It was a complete waste of time. She sees that Alesha is in with James and quickly climbs in with Nick, hugging him possessively. They spend the night like this, the girls dependent on Carol coming up with a way to save them. While Alesha is going to the toilet, Heather confesses that, just to make matters worse, she thinks she's pregnant. Can their vacation get any worse?

cut to:

ACT VI

The next morning, as the sun shines down on them, Carol awakes to find Glenn dead. He didn't make it through the night. Carol cracks completely and runs off into the forest, sobbing uncontrollably. Heather and Alesha sit beside Glenn's body and wait for her to return. They don't know what to do without Carol to tell them. Carol finally returns, picks up Glenn's body and drags it off into the forest to bury him. She's in a single minded trance and doesn't even recognize Heather and Alesha's presence. They're scared. Really scared. What are they going to do? Carol's the nurse. Carol's the Girl Guide. Carol's the one who can get them out of there.

Hours later, while Carol sits and stares off at space, Heather and Alesha have an emotional blow-out about Nick. Heather remembers Carol was going to get them across the island to the Indian village. But how are they going to do that with two unconscious guys and a girl in an emotionally crippled daze?

Frustrated by their own indecision, Heather decides by dragging Nick's sleeping bag off into the forest in the direction of the Indian village. Alesha, relieved to be doing something, grabs James and pulls him after Heather. Carol just sits and stares off until Heather returns and gently guides her after them.

As they struggle along, breaking their own trail through the forest, trying to continue heading in the direction of where Heather thinks the Indian village is, Nick awakes to find himself being pulled through a forest in a sleeping bag. When he realizes that Glenn is dead, he slips back into his sleep, emotionally and physically drained.

The girls continue, Carol obediently following, until they come to a huge fallen tree blocking their way. In their attempt to hoist James up and over the tree, Alesha slips, sending her and James down onto Heather, breaking her ankle. Furious, Heather lashes out at the dazed Carol. Alesha tries to separate them but is unable to before Heather winds up and smashes Carol in the nose, breaking it. But it's the punch that snaps Carol back to reality. Glenn is dead and they're trapped on an island with two guys with severe hypothermia. She starts to slump back when Heather lunges at her again. She can't fall back into a trance. Carol's the only one who can get them out of there alive!!

cut to:

ACT VII

But Carol pulls herself together. They've got to get medical help for Nick and James. Quickly. Taking control, Carol gets them going, circling around the fallen tree and onto the trail again. They're starting to make good time, considering Heather's broken ankle, when Carol, who's pulling Nick, suddenly drops over the edge of a ravine. The girls rush to her rescue and pull her back up to safety. Looking at the ravine, there's no way that they're going to be able to get the guys across or around it. Someone's going to have to go on alone. And it's going to have to be Carol. But James is starting to head into the latter stages of hypothermia. They've got to get help quickly. Carol slides down the side of the ravine and rushes off in the direction of the village, calling back to administer CPR when they stop breathing. The girls sit on the edge of the ravine, terrified. Carol disappears into the forest on the other side.

As Carol races through the forest, trying to get to the village. The girls wait. Carol topples over an exposed root and crashes into the ground, smashing her broken nose. It's almost too much to get up and continue, but she does.

Suddenly, Nick stops breathing. Heather panics and is freaking out when Alesha pushes her out of the way and starts CPR on him. Carol hears Heather's cries and it spurs her on through the forest. CPR continues and continues as Carol frantically tries to find some sign of civilization.

Carol suddenly crashes through a wall of underbrush to find herself in the center of a tribal circle. The natives recoil as this apparition struggles to her feet and starts telling her story. Some of the men rush off into the forest to rescue Nick, James, Heather and Alesha. Carol collapses into the dirt, she made it. But was she in time?

cut to:

Carol is resting when the men return to the village with everyone. She finds out that Alesha performed CPR on Nick for over two hours. Heather breaks down on Carol, the emotion and pressure of the past four days finally hitting her. But the guys are going to be all right. Everything is going to be all right. Everything is back to normal. Glenn is dead, James and Nick are going to recover from their brush with death, Heather is pregnant. Everything is back to normal? The effects of this weekend will be with them for the rest of their lives.

THE END

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