

FIRST DAY

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Winter woodland. Snow.

Eight men ski down a trail in the woods. They all wear the same camouflage suits and back-packs. One carries a huge machinegun, the rest have rifles.

They weave their way in single file through the trees. The sun is low on the treeline behind them.

The lead skier, THOR, 30s, competent, signals a halt and comes to a stop. He removes his goggles and lifts binoculars to his eyes.

The next man, BEAR, 30s, huge, slides up beside Thor.

BEAR

What do you think?

THOR

Hm, the trail widens out for about two hundred fifty meters. Perfect place for an ambush.

BEAR

We still going that way?

THOR

Have to; no time to skirt the area. Alert the men. We move fast...

BEAR

Sir.

Bear moves back to the other men. Thor replaces the binoculars and goggles.

At the back of the group are MAGNUS, 20s, greenhorn, and ERIK, 30s, steel-eyed sniper.

MAGNUS

Where are we headed?

ERIK

The Sage knows, so that's all I need to know.

MAGNUS

Are you not even curious? This is nothing like my old unit, we were--

BEAR (O.S.)
Curiosity killed the cat, Private.

Magnus turns to see Bear.

BEAR
If you want to live through your
first day, keep the noise down and
your eyes peeled - we may be
heading into a little trouble...

Thor looks back and moves off as Bear signals to him.

The skiers resume their journey.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - DAY

The forest edge.

An open area of some two hundred metres slopes down to a
frozen river spanned by a wooden bridge.

The skiers break from the treeline, hunkered low.

They move fast, in two lines that weave in and out of each
other to confuse an attacker.

Thor reaches the bridge first.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

A rickety old wooden bridge, like something out of the Dark
Ages.

Thor skis onto the bridge, sub-machinegun in each hand.

BEAR (O.S.)
Ambush!

O.S. gunfire.

Thor glances back.

Soldiers climb out of the snow on either side on the trail
and fire upon the skiers.

The skiers return fire.

Men fall on both sides.

Bear, at the back of the group, unslings his machinegun and
mows down the enemy.

The skiers are better quality soldiers and soon shoot down all the enemy.

THOR

Bear, Magnus, check them.

Bear and Magnus move off towards the fallen soldiers.

THOR

Erik, come with me. The rest of you keep your eyes peeled.

Thor and Erik ski over the bridge and head towards a low ridge.

The other two men take up a defensive position on the bridge.

EXT. OPEN GROUND - DAY

Bear and Magnus check out the bodies for survivors - none.

Magnus flips over a body with his foot.

MAGNUS

Who are these men? He is definitely a Swede.

BEAR

Ex-military types and mercenaries from all over the north. Hard men... Here, catch...

Bear throws a satchel to Magnus who catches it.

MAGNUS

What's this?

BEAR

You are wet behind the ears. It's a C4 satchel charge.

Magnus stares at the satchel.

BEAR (O.S.)

Take this too.

A large rectangular packet slams into his chest.

MAGNUS

Uh... A portable rocket launcher! What kind of mission is this?

Bear grins.

BEAR
Search and destroy.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

SOLDIER #1 frowns, looks around.

SOLDIER #1
Do you hear that?

SOLDIER #2 looks down the river.

O.S. a feint humming noise.

SOLDIER #2
Yes, it sounds like a--

A helicopter gunship rounds the forest and bears down on the bridge.

SOLDIER #2
(shouts)
Chopper!

The helicopter opens fire with machineguns. Twin trails of bullets rip over the bridge, cutting down the two soldiers.

EXT. OPEN GROUND - DAY

Magnus fires the rocket.

The chopper evades. The missile flies past.

BEAR
Damn!

MAGNUS
It's okay...

Magnus taps the casing over the words "Heat Seeking".

The missile flies round in a tight arc and hits the helicopter in its exhaust duct.

Small explosion.

The helicopter crashes. The pilot leaps out and the helicopter explodes.

BEAR
Good shot.

EXT. CRASH SITE - DAY

The pilot crawls in the snow, suit smoldering.

Erik kicks the pilot over. The pilot's helmet falls off.

The pilot is a woman. She lies on her back.

Erik is transfixed as she reaches for her sidearm.

Thor shoots her between the eyes.

THOR

Move out.

Thor walks away.

Bear and Magnus walk by.

BEAR

Some on Erik.

ERIK

(in awe)

She's a Valkyrie...

MAGNUS

What?

BEAR

Erik thinks all the girls he meets
in this game are Valkyries.

ERIK

One day, you will see; I will find
myself one... or two.

Bear laughs.

THOR(O.S.)

I said move out.

They follow after Thor.

EXT. RIDGE - DAY

The four men crawl to the edge of a low ridge and peer down
into a valley.

About two miles away is the Great Hall - a huge viking-style
longhouse. A large number of horses are tethered outside.

MAGNUS

Wow, it's huge. Very traditional.
Any viking lord would have been
proud of that.

THOR

Mm, you're right, he is a
traditionalist - one of the last...
the last.

BEAR

Looks like his bodyguards are with
him.

MAGNUS

Won't they have heard the gunfire
and explosions and be on alert now?

THOR

I doubt it. The main battle rages
on the far side of the valley.
Listen.

O.S. Far off sounds of a major battle.

THOR

Good work back there Private.

MAGNUS

Thank you sir.

Bear claps Magnus on the shoulder. Grins.

THOR

In fact, you're in charge of the C4
now Sven is dead. When we get down
there, set charges for the major
timbers. He must not get out -
alive.

Magnus nods.

MAGNUS

So who is our target, sir?

THOR

A very competent and dangerous old
man.

BEAR

He has many warriors and many
names.

ERIK

He's a master of disguise.

THOR

But these things need not bother
you - we're here to blow up the
whole building - the explosion does
not have to be selective.

EXT. THE GREAT HALL - DAY

The sun in low on the horizon.

The four men move stealthily through the horses.

Bear strokes their muzzles and hind quarters - murmurs to
them with calming voice.

A black-maned horse follows on behind them.

Magnus reaches the building and set a charge. Erik covers
him.

O.S. Raise voices inside the hall.

ODIN (O.S.)

Where is he?

SERVANT (O.S.)

In the thick of the fighting sire.

ODIN (O.S.)

Damn him to the depths of hell. And
where is that other fool I have the
misfortune to call son?

SERVANT (O.S.)

No one has seen him for hours.

ODIN (O.S.)

Damn him too!

Thor and Bear stand beneath a window.

THOR

Go to the other corner Bear, there
may be--

A foot of steel emerges from Thor's chest. He looks down.
Blood dribbles from his open mouth.

LOKI, 30s, black hair, evil grin, whispers in Thor's ear.

LOKI
Evening brother. Did you forget my
love of the equine form?

Loki laughs as Thor falls to the floor.

LOKI
You lose this time Thor.

BEAR (O.S.)
Loki! You backstabbing bastard.

Bear runs at Loki. He transforms into a huge bear.

Bear rears over Loki who thrusts his sword deep into Bear's chest.

The bear falls on top of Loki, with a crunch of breaking bones.

MAGNUS
What.. the ... hell...

Viking warriors appear from around the side of the building, swords drawn.

Erik opens fire, drops a couple.

A javelin hits him in the chest. He points at the open window. Gasps.

ERIK
The C4, thrown it.

Warriors hack Erik down, others run towards Magnus.

Magnus shoves a detonator in a block of C4 and throws the satchel through the window. He dives away from the building.

A huge explosion. The building disintegrates.

The warriors are caught in the blast.

Debris rains down on the area.

Silence.

Magnus climbs to his feet; alone. All lie dead around him. Magnus stands there dumbfounded

The sun drops beyond the horizon.

O.S. A horn sounds, followed by another, and another.

Warriors walk into view on the other side of the ruins. They carry burning torches.

A roar of .. joy!

ODIN, an old man with an eye-patch, armour and clothes torn and smoldering stands up amid the debris.

He sees Magnus and walks towards him. As he does, his clothes and armour repair themselves.

As he walks through the ruins, they begin to reform - timbers fly through the air, recreate the hall.

ODIN

Congratulations soldier. I see you are one of the new generation who prefer modern weaponry to the traditional sword and spear.

MAGNUS

Who... who are you? What is this place?

Odin frowns.

ODIN

Who... am I?

(realization)

Ah, I see! Even more remarkable, your success! I , my young warrior, am Odin... You are in Valhalla... and this is my hall.

The hall has totally reformed by now. Odin throws open a door to reveal the inside of the huge hall.

Vikings eat drink and wench.

MAGNUS

Val- Valhalla!?

Thor and Loki share a drink and a joke with his soldiers. A hammer hangs from his belt. He spots Magnus and nods.

Bear bites into a huge side of beef, and flashes a sharp-toothed grin at Magnus.

Eric sits between two scantily clad warrior women with winged helmets. They stroke his forked bears. He waves at Magnus.

The significance slowly dawns on Magnus.

Thor appears and thrusts a tankard into Magnus's hand. They touch tankards.

Odin laughs, claps a hand on Magnus's shoulder and wanders off onto the hall.

ODIN

Ale! Fetch me Ale!

Magnus smiles after him.

MAGNUS

Battles all day, feasting and
wenching all night. Think I might
get to like it here.

Thor grins.

THOR

Of course you will! You didn't do
too badly for your first day lad!

They both laugh and walk into the hall.

The door closes behind them.

FADE OUT.

THE END