

*Excerpt from the feature film "Short Leash", in which college girls HANNAH and KAYLIN survive a brutal home invasion on Christmas eve. In this scene, the pair flee from one of the criminals with their badly wounded pit-bull, HARLEY. Written by Stimson Snead, adapted from characters by Patrick Rea.*

**EXT. THE LAKE- NIGHT.**

HANNAH, HARLEY and KAYLIN break free of the woods, onto the edge of the frozen lake.

Away from the noise and the violence, it feels serene.

KAYLIN

Look!

Kaylin points across the lake to where the tree tops flash BLUE and RED POLICE LIGHTS from a dozen sources!

KAYLIN (CONT'D)

We gotta go around!

HANNAH

There's no time, come on!

They run onto THE ICE, struggling to HARLEY between them.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

We're almost there!

TAB calmly emerges from the tree line.

She observes the scene.

The empty lake, the two girls, the dog between them.

She then lifts her GUN.

Takes careful aim, inhales-

BLAM!

The bullet cuts through Hannah's thigh a split second before the sound reaches her, a thousand tiny CRACKS echoing off the surface of the ice.

She collapses with Harley.

Kaylin barely has time to realize what's happening before she's on her back, clutching a bullet wound in her arm!

Another GUNSHOT echoes across the ice like a DRUM.

Back at the water's edge, Tab lowers the pistol.

TAB  
*See how easy that was?!*

She advances.

TAB (CONT'D)  
(To herself, unhinged)  
But you said no. So let's make it  
complicated! EVERYONE ALWAYS HAS TO  
MAKE EVERYTHING SO COMPLICATED!

Hannah belly crawls towards the stunned Kaylin.

TAB (CONT'D)  
BUT ME!? I see a problem, I SHOOT  
the problem!

HANNAH  
Kaylin! I'm sorry!

TAB  
And then there is no problem.  
(Aiming)  
*I like keeping things simple.*

She squeezes the trigger- but the shot goes wide!

Tab slams face first into the ice, dropping the gun!

She twists to see-

*-Harley!*

Back on his three good legs, teeth digging into her ankle and  
dragging her away from the gun!

Away from Hannah!

And away from the shore, towards the WARNING SIGNS.

Tab realizes what's happening, yanking out her switch blade  
and stabbing Harley in the side!

The ice is weakening, CRACKS ringing like gunfire-

As Tab stabs wildly, desperately trying to make Harley *let  
her go!*

TAB (CONT'D)  
*No! No! No! No! No!*

The ICE GROANS under them-

A single damning CRACK echoes across the length of the lake as the ice sags, *and still* Harley drags her further!

His teeth deep in Tab's leg when the ice BREAKS!

A massive hole opens-

-Swallowing them both!

Tab's SCREAM is drowned out as she is dragged down into the cold black.

The ice RINGS like a DRUM, like someone is beating the ice from below, desperate for a way up...

The horrible moment lasts only a second, then the beating slows and the lake is quiet but for the sound of bubbles.

The bubbles stop.

HANNAH

Noooo!

Hannah tries to follow, but Kaylin grabs her by the ankle with her good arm, stopping her at the water's edge!

KAYLIN

*He's gone, Hannah!*

Desperate, Hannah sticks her arms into the freezing water.

Her fingers close on nothing.

Nothing at all...

But the end of a SHORT LEASH.

With a cry of triumph, Hannah and Kaylin yank back on the leash, pulling Harley's limp body out of the water.

He isn't moving.

Hannah's barely cognizant of Kaylin beside her, struggling to her feet and waving her arms at the MEN ON THE SHORE.

Hannah doesn't see the POLICEMEN running toward them.

She only sees Harley, motionless in her arms.

The Bing Crosby song "WHITE CHRISTMAS" begins to play.

END OF SEQUENCE.