

SURVIVING EMILY

By Caroline Fraissinet

FADE IN:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Rummaging through what looks to be an ordinary campsite in the mountains, several NATIONAL GUARD sort through the remains. There's a fire and a tent, food hung in the trees. It's a perfect camp- it's just empty.

ANGLE ON

ELENA, one of the Guard, as she unzips the tent to look inside. She emerges with a digital video camera. Flipping open the screen, she runs it back and we see

INSET

On the screen, video of Sylvia and Tomas.

Elena calls to the other Guard to come look. They circle around, watching the bright, eager faces on the screen.

ELENA

They were definitely here.

(beat)

Now we just have to figure out where they are now.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

TOMAS turns the camera on. He focuses it on SYLVIA, who is now standing in front of Mount Emily. The date and time stamp appears in the lower corner of the screen, along with the record symbol.

TOMAS (O.C.)

Day one of Project Pioneer.

SYLVIA

We are here at the foot of beautiful Mount Emily in Oregon.

Sylvia salutes. She walks backwards on the path, gesturing to Mount Emily.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

We're going to spend the next three days conquering Mount Emily, just like the pioneers did on their way to the gold rush in the 1800s.

Sylvia waves at the camera. The screen goes static.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Sylvia and Tomas are walking up the trail. Tomas consults a GPS, holding it out as they walk.

TOMAS

We just need to go down that--

Sylvia and Tomas stop suddenly, looking at something on the path. A huge tree has fallen and is blocking the path. The woods beyond it look dark and treacherous. Sylvia and Tomas look at each other.

TOMAS (CONT'D)

All right, so we'll go around.

Tomas refers to the GPS again. Sylvia looks over his shoulder. He traces a path with his finger.

SYLVIA

That's going to add a day, at least.

TOMAS

Add a day, or go back, that's what we have to work with.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Sylvia and Tomas walk. Tomas once again consults the GPS. He looks up then back down, tracing the path with his finger.

TOMAS

We should be near a lake soon.

Sylvia looks around. There is no sign of a body of water anywhere nearby.

SYLVIA

I don't think that thing works.

Starting to argue, Tomas cuts himself off when the GPS flickers and goes dark.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I'm going to check the map.

Pulling out a bundle of maps, Sylvia shakes it a little.

TOMAS

Batteries. We have extra batteries, right?

Digging in his pack, there's a tense moment, and then- Tomas produces the batteries. He replaces them, but when she turns the GPS on again, it flickers and dies.

TOMAS (CONT'D)

Maybe it got wet?

SYLVIA

We have analog for a reason.

(beat; shaking the map out)

Let's just stay the night here, and try to orient ourselves again in the morning.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

THE NEXT DAY, Sylvia and Tomas move around their small camp. Sylvia addresses the camera, which she's propped on a stump.

SYLVIA

Today, we have two choices. We can stay put and try to radio for help.

TOMAS

Or we can try to use the clues we find in the woods around us to get us back on track, just like the pioneers did.

Sylvia nods, rolling up a sleeping bag and addressing the camera.

SYLVIA

Tomas is going to do a little recon while I pack up camp. I'll keep the fire burning, so he can use the smoke and scent as a kind of homing beacon.

EXT. LAKE - LATER

Tomas walks through the woods. He sees a body of water in the distance. His eyes widen and he grins. He takes out the walkie-talkie to contact Sylvia, but notices something.

No, he HEARS something. Something moving in the woods around him. He turns, and he catches sight of

TREE BRANCHES SWAYING

As if something just ran through them.

Then AGAIN, on the other side of him. Backing toward the water, the BUZZ of flies is suddenly unbearable. He turns and what he sees horrifies him. He covers his mouth and gags.

TOMAS

Oh god, a deer.  
(beat; realizing)  
Oh shit, wolves.

Motion in the trees again, all around him. Looking around, he sees it EVERYWHERE, so he wades into the lake to escape. The walkie-talkie slips from his belt and sinks.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Furrowing her brows, Sylvia looks up at the sun, starting to set. Picking up her walkie-talkie, she tunes it in.

SYLVIA

Tomas, it's Sylvia. Where are you?

There is still no signal, we hear STATIC. Sylvia presses the call button again.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Tomas! Answer me, Tomas!

Still, nothing. She considers a moment, then turns on the camera.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Tomas isn't back yet, and he's not answering my call, so I'm going to go look for him. I'm heading due west, and I'll stop when I can't see the sun anymore.

EXT. HELICOPTERS - DAY

There is a search and rescue already under way. Helicopters cross the sky in search of the missing teens.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Stumbling through the woods, Tomas shivers at the darkness coming on. He JUMPS at a shape that seems to be a wolf, but it's just a stump.

TOMAS

Sylvia! Can you hear me?! Hello??

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Another part of the woods, cresting a hill, Sylvia turns in a circle, calling out.

SYLVIA

TOMAS! Tomas, where are you?

It is getting dark. Digging for the walkie-talkie, Sylvia tries to get a signal again, but still, nothing but STATIC. Frustrated, she snatches the bag up, never noticing that it's not zipped all the way.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

As it gets darker, Tomas looks worried. Trying to find shelter for himself, he heads for a rocky outcropping. But when he reaches it, he looks like he might collapse. At least, until he sees the

PAW PRINTS IN THE DIRT.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

This is the scene from the opening of the script:

Rummaging through what looks to be an ordinary campsite in the mountains, several National Guard sort through the remains. There's a fire and a tent, food hung in the trees. It's a perfect camp- it's just empty.

ANGLE ON

Elena with the video camera, watching it with her troopmates. She closes the screen and hands the camera off to one of her colleagues. The SOUND of helicopters hum in the distance. She breaks away from the group.

ELENA

Head west. I'm going to go up.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Sylvia heads back in the direction she came. The path is less certain now, and

SHE SLIDES ON LOOSE ROCKS AND LEAVES

Sylvia drags herself to a log and pulls herself up. Catching her breath, she opens her bag. But the emergency supplies she packed are gone.

When she looks back, she can see the trail littered with gauze, with packets- she's been losing them for miles it seems.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE

Tomas runs to the edge of a cliff. He looks to the right, where there is a sharp drop off. To the left is a rock ledge with a dead tree. He rushes

to the ledge and climbs up. He hears a HOWL in the distance, but surely he's safe now.

Tomas breathes a sigh of relief, sinking down beside the tree. A branch from the tree BREAKS and narrowly misses hitting Tomas. He gets up and almost falls off the side of the ledge.

The tree BREAKS in half and falls off the ledge, taking much of the ground near it with it. The sides of the ledge crumble.

EXT. WOODS

Hobbling back to the clearing, Sylvia dumps the supplies that she salvaged.

A CRUNCH in the woods makes her jump, but she realizes it was just the wind.

Going back to her supplies, she digs out a flare. Considering how close the trees are, she tries to clear a safe spot to light one. Once she does, she strikes it open.

EXT. HELICOPTERS - DAY

Above, one of the Guard in the helicopters spots the BRIGHT LIGHT of the flare, and gestures down at it.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE

The ledge has now dwindled down into a small shelf. Tomas backs up against the side of the mountain. He grabs onto the side of the ledge tightly, struggling to keep the ground from falling apart. He YELLS.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

As she starts to light another flare, Sylvia is surprised and heartened to see rescuers coming into view.

Several Guardspeople enter the wooded area where Sylvia is. Sylvia, in excitement, starts to stand up, but cries out, realizing her injury.

They rush to her.

EXT. MOUNTAIN

Helicopters fly by the side of the mountain, searching for Tomas. A helicopter rounds the corner by the ledge. It lowers a ladder.

ELENA leans out, cupping her hands and yelling.

ELENA

Tomas! Stay calm!

Shifting from hand to hand, Tomas is finally able to grab hold of the ladder. He climbs up and looks down at the ledge. It completely falls apart as they fly away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BASE CAMP - DAY

The local news team is at the base camp. REPORTERS are asking questions as CAMERAMEN are taping them and PHOTOGRAPHERS are taking pictures.

Elena smiles for pictures with her arms around Tomas and Sylvia. A NEWSWOMAN is reporting in front of the building.

NEWSWOMAN

Today two local teens were rescued by the National Guard after being stranded on Mount Emily...

Tomas and Sylvia, still smiling and posing for pictures, are talking to each other.

TOMAS

Boy, what a story this makes. Local kid gets himself lost on Mount Emily and almost dies.

Tomas' eyes widen and he grins widely.

SYLVIA

What are you so happy about?

TOMAS

Sylvia, you're a genius.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

Sylvia is standing in front of Mount Emily. The date and time stamp appears in the lower corner of the screen, along with the record symbol.

TOMAS (O.S.)

YouTube How To Survive In The Wilderness Guide, Scene 1, Take 10! Action!

SYLVIA

We're here at the foot of beautiful Mount Emily in Oregon. Mount Emily is...

THE END

FADE OUT.