

EXTRACT

Pushed

a short drama

By

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Characters

RILEY PURDON	A mountain climber
JENNA PURDON	His wife and fellow climber
SOREN MASTERS	An experienced climber
JETT MEYER	An inexperienced climber
DAN BREA	The leader of the expedition

Time

May, 1999.

Setting

Mount Hood, Oregon, USA.

This play is based on actual events on Mount Hood in May, 1999.

Pushed

RILEY, SOREN, DAN AND JENNA APPEAR IN SPOTLIGHTS.

FAST AND INTENSE.

RILEY: We have to do it!

DAN: What you are talking about?

JENNA: It's us or him.

DAN: It's against everything we believe in.

SOREN: Us or him!

DAN: Everything!

RILEY: There is no other way.

SOREN: He's brought it –

JENNA: On himself.

RILEY: He's endangered –

SOREN: All of our lives.

DAN: There has to be another way!

JENNA, RILEY, SOREN: There isn't.

LIGHTS CHANGE. THE CLIMBERS ARE GETTING READY TO CLIMB, PREPARING THEIR EQUIPMENT.

DAN: People die on Mount Hood.

JENNA: It's just what happens.

SOREN: People talk about K2.

DAN: Everest

RILEY: Anna Purna.

JETT: Nanga Parbat in Kashmir

SOREN: The Man Eater

DAN: But Mount Hood is a killer as well.

RILEY: Just ask Kelly James,

JENNA: Brian Hall

JETT: And Nikko Cooke.

SOREN: More than 130 people have died on the mountain since records started to be kept in 1896.

RILEY: You know that before you start

JENNA: You have to be aware

SOREN: Of all the dangers

DAN: The Multnomah tribe call the mountain – Wy'east.

SOREN: It's a stratovolcano

RILEY: In the Cascade Volcanic Arc

JENNA: Of Northern Oregon.

DAN: That's in the US.

JENNA: Mount Hood's snow-covered peak rises 11,249 feet

RILEY: And is home to twelve glaciers.

JETT: (LOOKING UP) It's beautiful.

DAN: (TO **JETT**) Wait till you get up there. (TO AUDIENCE) There's five in our climbing party.

RILEY: Riley Purdon 31.

DAN: His wife

JENNA: Jenna, 39. Guess you could call me a cradle snatcher.

DAN: Then there's –

SOREN: Soren Masters,

DAN: Another experienced climber and Jett Meyer.

JETT: That's Jett – with two T's. I'm a skier.

DAN: Jett's a friend of a friend. He wants to go up the mountain so I'm taking him. It's his first climb - and that's where I come in. Dan Brea, professional climbing guide. I've been up and down this mountain so many times I could do it in my sleep.

SOREN: Knowing Dan, he has probably has.

DAN: It's my job to get everybody up and down in one piece. (TO **JETT**) And the first lesson is you never take the mountain for granted. You treat every climb like it's your first. (TO AUDIENCE) Even if it's your thousandth – and something.

JETT APPROACHES JENNA.

JETT: I'm Jett. All the way from NYC.

JENNA: Jenna. And over there – that's Riley, my *husband*.

JETT: Good day for it.

JENNA: Looks okay but the weather can change fast on the mountain. I've seen it before.

JETT: No problems.

JENNA: Hey, your carabiner is hanging loose.

JETT: My what?

JENNA: Your carabiner. (BEAT) On your harness.

JETT: Oh right. Thanks for the heads up.

JETT MOVES AWAY

DAN: (TO CLIMBERS) This morning we're climbing up the south side.

RILEY: We start here at Timberline Lodge,

JENNA: then proceed up Palmer Glacier,

SOREN: Till we reach Crater Rock,

DAN: then it's across Coalman glacier

JETT: Riding the Hogsback.