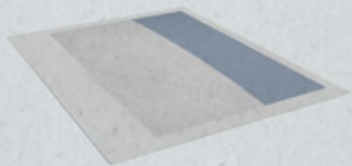


RETURN TO THE ICE



JM21 RETURN TO THE ICE

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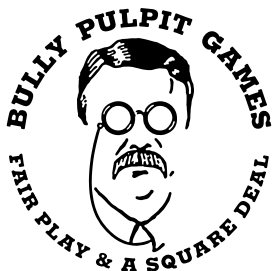
BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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For more information about *Fiasco* or to download other playsets and materials, visit www.bullypulpitgames.com.

If you'd like to create your own playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at info@bullypulpitgames.com.



"When you play, *play hard*." –Theodore Roosevelt

THE SCORE

SETTLE IN, POLIE

I heard you did a summer at Mactown. That's cool. If McMurdo is like a really out-of-the-way American small town, South Pole Station is like a broom closet on the moon.

That C-130 flying away? Wave goodbye because that was it, the end, civilization is flying away with it and darkness is about to fall like a frozen fucking hammer. We are officially alone. There are 49 other faces here and maybe you love 'em, maybe you hate 'em, but for the next six months they are all the faces you are seeing. So settle in, Polie.

We're standing on 2850 meters of solid ice. The warmest it has ever been here, in the history of ever, is negative 13.6 C. You don't want to know how cold it can get. You probably wouldn't believe me if I told you. Even though it is dry as a desert, the wind is always blowing and sometimes that means whiteouts for days and always that means big fucking snow drifts, snow that whips across maybe a thousand kilometers of flat, featureless nothing. Snow we have to keep shoveling or eventually it'd bury us and we'd just disappear. Let that sink in.

Anyway, we're watching *The Thing* tonight in the gym, both versions back to back, so stop by if you've got any liquor.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Thing (any version), Whiteout, Frozen Planet, Encounters at the End of the World

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 COLLEGIAL

- Mentor and mentee
- ◡ Job to one, lifelong dream to the other
- ◢ Shelly Durban's backups, in case she's incapacitated
- ◣ Frosty old school veteran Polies
- ◤ Cook and electrician
- ◥ "One of us will win, that's just how it goes."

2 WARM

- Band-mates in a half-ass band
- ◡ ...in the sexual sense
- ◢ The Blackout Drunk Club
- ◣ Mutual enemies of Shelly Durban
- ◤ Non-Americans
- ◥ "Thursday night is wine night"

3 FROSTY

- Professional rivals
- ◡ Deeply personal rivals
- ◢ That one time, while drunk
- ◣ NSF employee and Lockheed Martin contractor
- ◤ Seasoned Polie and fresh meat first-timer
- ◥ "If he does it one more time I'm going to kill him."

4 UNDER WRAPS

- ◻ (Not so) secret stash
- ◻◦ (Not so) secret love
- ◻◦◦ (Not so) secret shame
- ◻◻◦ (Not so) secret history
- ◻◻◻◦ (Not so) secret ambition
- ◻◻◻◻◦ “I built a robot. Nobody knows but you.”

5 TROUBLESOME

- ◻ Hard worker and lazy ass
- ◻◦ Slaving away for Shelly fucking Durban
- ◻◦◦ Amputator and amputee
- ◻◻◦ Idiots and geniuses
- ◻◻◻◦ ...in a sexual sense
- ◻◻◻◻◦ “You and me, we got no business on the Ice”

6 PURPOSEFUL

- ◻ On the Fire Response Team
- ◻◦ Co-religionists
- ◻◦◦ Overwinter Events and Morale Committee - both of you, all of it
- ◻◻◦ Members of the O Negative Walking Blood Bank¹
- ◻◻◻◦ Chump and opportunist
- ◻◻◻◻◦ “They’ll remember us forever if we pull this off.”

...**AT THE SOUTH POLE**

¹ This is actually a thing

NEEDS...

1 FRESH AIR

- ...so you can smoke in peace and enjoy the 4% humidity
- ...so you don't hurt anybody
- ...so you can find a place to bury it
- ...so you can go party in the Dark Sector Laboratory
- ...so you can catch Shelly Durban in the act
- ...so you can dig up what your buddy driving last summer's South Pole Traverse left you

2 TIME

- ...for an extra two-minute shower, just this once
- ...to finish the fucking experiment before the money dries up
- ...to fix what you broke
- ...to fix who you broke
- ...to collect the evidence you need to take them down
- ...to get them on *your* side

3 DISTRACTION

- ...like mixed drinks chilled with irreplaceable 500 year old ice cores
- ...like getting that Keck Array astronomy grad student in bed
- ...like setting up a Satanic ritual alcove in the main snow tunnel
- ...like doing unauthorized things in the science lab
- ...like making as much noise as you want in the music room
- ...like seeing how many Polies you can have sex with

4 JUSTICE

- ◻ ...because it wasn't your fault
- ◻◦ ...for the little guy for a change
- ◻◦◦ ...because this is America, God dammit
- ◻◦◦◦ ...because you told them, they didn't listen and look what happened
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...because Shelly Durban sure as shit isn't going to provide any
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...because your team was robbed in the basketball game

5 A LITTLE HELP

- ◻ ...jacking up the Balloon Inflation Facility above the snowpack again
- ◻◦ ...in the fucking kitchen dish pit, which isn't going to clean itself
- ◻◦◦ ...stealing something nobody will miss
- ◻◦◦◦ ...shoveling the emergency exits clear
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...fixing the Tucker Sno-Cat
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...not going completely, dangerously insane

6 A LITTLE HONESTY

- ◻ ...about Shelly Durban's *real* plans
- ◻◦ ...in the incident report
- ◻◦◦ ...about who stole your shit
- ◻◦◦◦ ...between the two of you, to figure out what this *is*
- ◻◦◦◦◦ ...about who wrecked the fan room
- ◻◦◦◦◦◦ ...regarding the observation last year of a distortion of the energy spectrum of atmospheric neutrinos at around 1 trillion electron-volts.

...AT THE SOUTH POLE

LOCATIONS...

1 PUBLIC

- ◻ Half court gymnasium and event central
- ◻ Weight room, overlooking the gym
- ◻ Laundry room (1 load per week)
- ◻ Hydroponic greenhouse, with small lounge²
- ◻ Destination Zulu (back door) Coat Room
- ◻ Cafeteria and kitchen

2 CRAMPED

- ◻ SCBA Locker 39
- ◻ Concealed hatch between Medical above and the station store below
- ◻ Janitor's closet in kitchen
- ◻ Sauna
- ◻ Cargo pocket of someone's firefighting turnout gear
- ◻ The shuttle van, winterized, dead, tires removed, covered in snow

3 PRIVATE

- ◻ Shower (2 minutes twice a week)
- ◻ Private stateroom in Wing A4, 6.5 square meters, with a window and some Christmas lights.
- ◻ Winter Site Manager's office
- ◻ Women's restroom in Wing A1
- ◻ Piping and wiring trunk behind the recycling room
- ◻ Inside a hollowed-out bible

² "Food Growth Chamber", officially.

4 DANGEROUS

- ◻ Locked cabinet in the clinic pharmacy
- ◻◻ The (industrial) fan room, next to the music room
- ◻◻◻ Science lab
- ◻◻◻ The wreckage of Old Pole station
- ◻◻◻ Emergency power plant in Wing B1
- ◻◻◻◻ Outside somewhere, in a raging polar blizzard

5 COLD

- ◻ IceCube Laboratory (ICL)
- ◻◻ Cargo elevator inside “the Beer Can”, a four-story aluminum tower with a stairwell and utilities as well.
- ◻◻◻ The Vehicle Fueling Module, the South Pole’s gas station.
- ◻◻◻◻ Martin A. Pomerantz Observatory (MAPO) with the SPUD/KECK telescope (working on the polarization anisotropies of the Cosmic Microwave Background.)
- ◻◻◻◻ Ex-lover’s stateroom in Wing A1
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Automated Weather Station Henry, 100 kilometers away at -89.001S -0.391 W

6 ODD

- ◻ Arts and crafts room, full of craft supplies and .. costumes
- ◻◻ The “skua shack”, full of abandoned junk waiting for new owners
- ◻◻◻ Carefully tended snow-hole
- ◻◻◻ Duct taped to the underside of the B1 emergency exit
- ◻◻◻◻ “South Pole international PAX Terminal” shack by the skiway
- ◻◻◻◻◻ My Little Pony shrine at the end of the main snow tunnel

...**AT THE SOUTH POLE**

OBJECTS...

1 CONTRABAND

- ◻ Two joints of New Zealand dope
- ◻◦ Iridium satphone, usable when an old satellite dips above the horizon
- ◻◦ Missing AED, cannibalized and repurposed
- ◻◻◦ “We fished this out of the old Rod Well sewage outfall bulb.”
- ◻◻◦ Pills, stolen from the emergency medical cache
- ◻◻◻ Enormous bale of New Zealand dope

2 OFFICIAL

- ◻ The only remaining tape backup of data showing the signature of sterile neutrinos from the IceCube experiment.³
- ◻◦ Next Monday’s House Mouse schedule - who cleans toilets, who shovels berthing hall emergency exits, who “tidies lounges”
- ◻◦ 125 acres of unused construction equipment and half-empty milvan containers, waiting on raised berms to be sent north
- ◻◻◦ Obviously incorrect Hazardous Waste Identification Sheet (HWIS)
- ◻◻◦ Pharmacy tracking database on the J: drive
- ◻◻◻ Pri-Max mobile aluminum shredder, never used

3 NECESSARY

- ◻ The 50 Mbits/s SPTR relay base station, smashed to bits.
- ◻◦ Dog-eared copy of Robert M. Bramson’s *Coping with Difficult People*
- ◻◦ Generator Three, chugging away on JP-8 jet fuel.
- ◻◻◦ Rod Well #3, the source of the base’s fresh water.
- ◻◻◦ Last case of hard liquor (limit one bottle per day, \$30 per bottle)
- ◻◻◻ A “takeout meal” for a sick person

³ A distortion of the energy spectrum of atmospheric neutrinos around 1 trillion electron-volts was observed last year. If this tape isn’t lost or destroyed like the master data was, it will show the first robust experimental evidence of extra dimensions, as predicted by string theory.

4 OUT OF PLACE

- ◻ Billiard ball from the pool room, wrapped in a tube sock.
- ◻◦ A note in a cookbook on the cookbook rack outside cafeteria
- ◻◦◦ Sousaphone
- ◻◻◻ Complete Alan Parsons Project discography
- ◻◻◻◻ Something rolled in canvas from a torn down Jamesway tent
- ◻◻◻◻◻ All the station's hydroponic jalapenos in a zip-loc bag

5 WORRISOME

- ◻ Kovacs brand ice auger, missing
- ◻◦ Fire extinguisher, empty
- ◻◦◦ Gummed up fuel in gas lines and heating boilers
- ◻◻◻ Unintelligible screed covering a whole legal pad in red pen
- ◻◻◻◻ Last box of condoms
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Homemade bomb

6 ENRAGING

- ◻ Pile of cigarette butts and ashes not on the smoker's deck
- ◻◦ Melted remains of every VHS tape and DVD at the south pole
- ◻◦◦ Expensive personal shampoo and soap that should be in your cubby but are *not in your cubby*
- ◻◻◻ Anabolic steroids
- ◻◻◻◻ Half-written incident report on the J: drive
- ◻◻◻◻◻ Annoying hat

...**AT THE SOUTH POLE**

A SOUTH POLE INSTA-SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS ON THE ICE

For three players...

- * Collegial: Job to one, lifelong dream to the other
- * Under Wraps: (Not so) secret shame
- * Troublesome: Slaving away for Shelly fucking Durban

For four players, add...

- * Frosty: Deeply personal rivals

For five players, add...

- * Warm: ...in the sexual sense

NEEDS ON THE ICE

For three players...

- * Time: ...to collect the evidence you need to take them down

For four or five players, add...

- * A Little Help: ...stealing something nobody will miss

LOCATIONS ON THE ICE

For three, four or five players...

- * Cramped: Sauna

OBJECTS ON THE ICE

For three or four players...

- * Official: Pri-Max mobile aluminum shredder, never used

For five players, add...

- * Out of Place: Billiard ball from the pool room, wrapped in a tube sock.

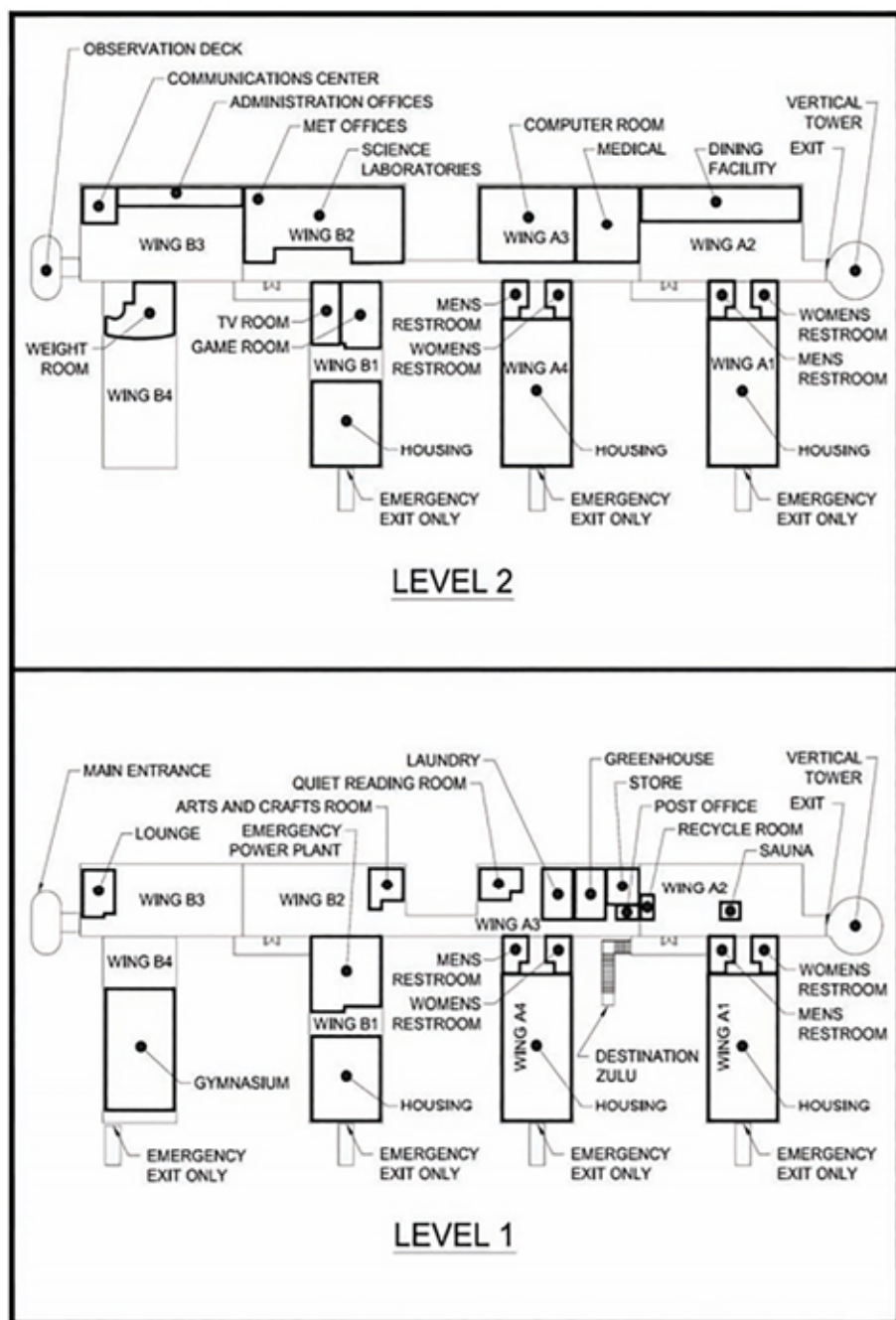
KINDLY NOTE

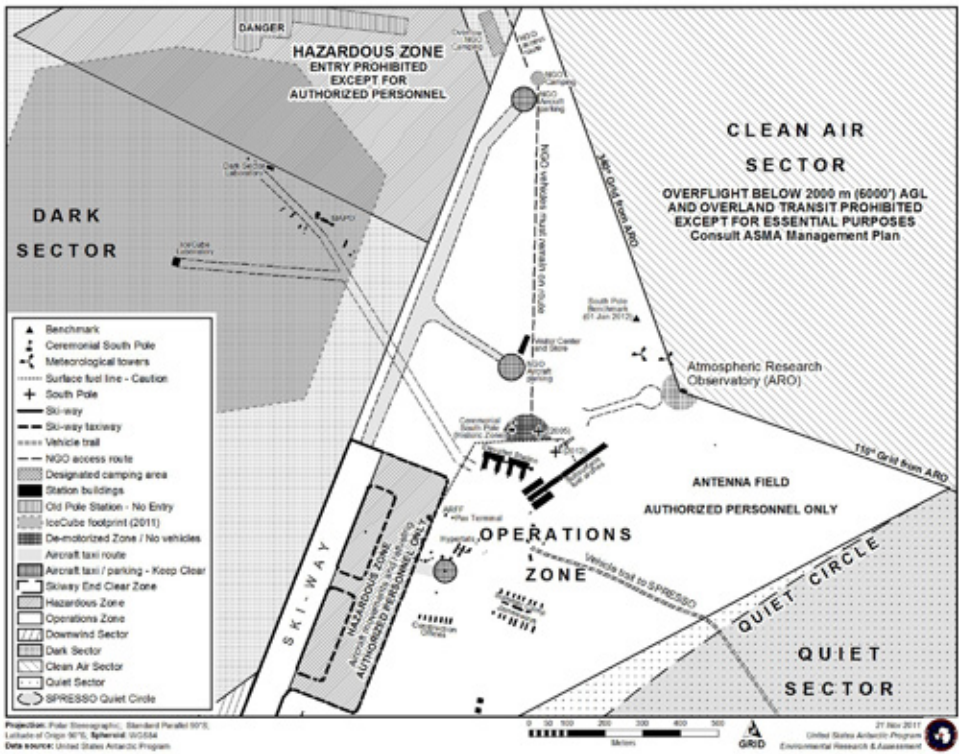
“Safety is of utmost concern at South Pole Station. All personnel should be aware of all safety measures practiced including “off limits” areas throughout the station. Particular emphasis is given in and around all work environments. Emergency response procedures are provided to all personnel on station. Each person is required to know these procedures. Make note of all exits throughout the facilities. Be aware of extinguisher placement and usage. Please report observed hazards to the Station Manager. Remember, prevention is of highest priority to ensure a safe living and working environment.”

“The work equipment you are issued is for authorized activities. Due to the nature of the field equipment you have access to, you may be tempted to engage in unauthorized overnight camping trips, skidoo races, or Sunday drives outside of town. You are authorized to use the U.S. government equipment issued to you only to accomplish your approved work.”

“A limited amount of alcohol is available for purchase at the three stations. Alcohol is not available on the ships. Even during off-duty hours, events may require swift, intelligent action. The ability of a person to deal effectively with a mishap is reduced if he or she is intoxicated. The NSF will not tolerate abuse of alcohol or unauthorized use of controlled substances. With reasonable cause, testing for alcohol may be conducted while an employee is in active working status. Disciplinary action, up to and including termination, may occur if a person is determined to have any amount of alcohol in their system while on the job. Existing grants are subject to revocation in the event of substance abuse. Persons under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will not be allowed to board program aircraft or ships.”

AMUNDSEN-SCOTT STATION, SOUTH POLE





“U.S. Criminal Jurisdiction Public Law 98-473, the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (Part H, chapter XII; 18 USC 7), extends Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction to cover offenses committed by or against U.S. nationals in areas not under the jurisdiction of other states. Since, in accordance with provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, the United States does not recognize territorial claims in Antarctica, this law establishes that persons can be prosecuted in a federal court for violation of U.S. criminal law in the Antarctic.”