The Ice Adventure is the story of four adventurers battling through the polar wastes with a vital message for the scientist Yvonne Von Evian, stationed beyond the snow plains, across the glacier and around the mountain.

Characters

**Great Scott** – the elder statesman of the group. Old-fashioned, experienced and wearer of a fine moustache. But, he is an imposter!

**Fay Mears** – the outdoor survival specialist. She has spent many a happy day marooned in the middle of nowhere.

**Helen ‘Helter’ Skelter** – the woman of action. She can ski, snowboard, drive huskies, ride a snowmobile… often at the same time.

**Prince Larry** – a member of the royal family. The others see him as a bit of liability.

**Chief** – head of Polar Explorers, only ever heard over the radio.

**Yvonne Von Evian** – the scientist the group is trying to reach. She only appears in the final episode, and is about 18 or 20 years old.

**Some non-speaking servants of Prince Larry.**

Service 1

*If you don’t use this episode in a service, put it early in your programme for the first day of the club.*

Scene

Base camp. The stage is empty apart from some radio equipment to one side. The characters enter, bringing with them all sorts of equipment: skis, boxes, backpacks, huge coats etc, apart from Larry, who is only carrying a shoebox. As they stagger in, they collide with each other, dropping things, getting tangled up and generally causing havoc.

**Fay:** (Still trying to hold onto her equipment while avoiding the others.) Wait a minute, wait a minute! We’re not getting anywhere. Everyone put whatever they’re carrying down!

The four of them drop everything with an almighty crash.

**Larry:** Ooh, I feel like my arms are going to fall off!

**Helen:** What? Why? You were barely carrying anything!

**Larry:** These arms aren’t used to carting things about. There’s not much call for that when you’re a prince. Usually, I have a servant or five to do it for me.

**Fay:** (Looking at Larry with dislike.) I don’t know why Polar Explorers allowed you to come – you’ve never done anything more dangerous than eat a yogurt that was a day past its sell-by date.

**Scott:** Nonsense! I’m sure His Royal Highness Prince Laurence of the North Seas, the vast and endless Highlands, the awesome Great Plains and Croydon town centre will be fine. We all have to start somewhere. I remember when I first
started out, I can’t have been more than 16 or 17. I joined a team racing to the summit of Mount...

**Fay:** (Cutting him off, before he gets going on his story.) OK, OK! I get the picture. We’ll give him the benefit of the doubt. *(She looks at the congregation and realises that there’s an audience.)* Oh! Hello everyone. Are you here for the expedition briefing too? Well, we’d better introduce ourselves. I’m Fay Mears, survival expert extraordinaire. *(She strikes a heroic pose.)*

**Helen:** *(Pushing past Fay and striking an even more heroic pose.)* Helen ‘Helter’ Skelter’s the name, action’s the game. If you can jump off it, ski down it or skate across it, I’ve done it!

**Scott:** *(Walking forward, twirling his moustache.)* I’m Scott – Great Scott they call me, because of all the polar adventures I’ve had over the years – Canada, southern Argentina, Norway, Siberia, Antarctica, Alaska…

**Helen:** *(Sniggering.)* The frozen food section of the supermarket…

**Scott:** What?

**Helen:** Nothing!

**Larry:** *(Apologetically coming forward.)* I’m Prince Larry, here because… well I’m actually not sure why I’m here. I’ve never really done anything like this before.

**Fay:** *(Looking at him unhappily.)* Yes. Quite. Anyway, we’re waiting for our instructions. Are you coming to Polar Explorers this week? I’m sure my friends Sir Random Finds and Bare Feet will look after you well – they’re great explorers!

*The radio starts cracking. They all rush over to it.*

**Chief:** *(Speaking through an off-stage mic.)* Come in base camp. Hello base camp, this is HQ calling.

**Fay:** *(Picking up the mouthpiece for the radio and speaking into it.)* This is base camp, hello Chief. How are you?

**Chief:** Ooh, not very well. My frostbite is still playing up. I should never have gone out in that blizzard just wearing flip-flops.

*Everyone winces and Larry clutches his toes.*

**Fay:** *(Speaking into the mouthpiece.* What’s the message, Chief?

**Chief:** We’re sending you with a vital message to Professor Yvonne Von Evian, the scientist based at Ice Station Debra. She’s been cut off for months and all her communications are down.

**Helen:** Cool! I’ve always wanted to meet Prof Yvonne Von Evian!

**Larry:** Sounds a bit dangerous.

**Scott:** Don’t worry! It’ll be a piece of cake – all we have to do is trek across the snow plains, scale a glacier, climb a mountain and we’ll be there!

**Larry:** Can I not just eat the cake? *(He looks carefully at Scott.)* Hang on, are you wearing a false moustache?

**Scott:** *(Covering his top lip.)* What? No! Of course not! What a silly suggestion.

**Fay:** Sssshhh! *(Speaking into the mouthpiece.)* What’s the message, Chief?

**Chief:** I can’t tell you over the radio, you’ll receive a coded message very soon! That’s all from me, HQ out!

**Fay:** Bye Chief! *(She puts the mouthpiece back.)* Right team, we’ve got a lot to prepare for. *(Everyone starts to pick up their stuff and makes to leave.)* We’ve got to take a message out into the wilderness! See you at Polar Explorers everyone!

**Helen:** Excellent!

**Scott:** Jolly good!

**Larry:** Oh dear…
Scene

Base camp – the place is strewn with equipment and winter clothing. The radio is in the corner. Great Scott enters, wearing a coat, scarf, old-fashioned hat and carrying some wooden tennis rackets.

**Scott:** *(To himself.)* Well, so far so good. I’ve managed to fool the others into thinking I’m Great Scott, the legendary explorer! Well, I’m not! The Chief turned me down for a place on his team and so I’m going to ruin this expedition. That will teach him to ignore me! *(He starts laughing, but stops abruptly when Fay and Helen enter.)* Er, hello! I think I’ve got everything I need. How about you two?

**Fay:** Where is it?

**Scott:** What?

**Helen:** Your stuff!

**Scott:** I’m wearing it!

**Fay and Helen:** What?

**Fay:** You can’t just take that, it’s -30°C at the pole!

**Helen:** Where are your waterproofs, windproofs, snow-proofs, polar-bear proofs?

**Scott:** Ha! I don’t need those! When I scaled the north face of Kilimanjaro, all I needed was a tweed jacket, a pair of slippers and a big bag of liquorice allsorts.

**Fay:** Seriously, you need more than that. We’ve got to stay safe, and keep each other safe. If we let you go out in the cold in those clothes, you’ll freeze solid and we’ll be able to use you as a table!

**Scott:** Well, I suppose an extra coat wouldn’t hurt. *(Fay helps him put on a big waterproof coat.)* Mm, it’s quite nice.

**Larry** enters, wearing a bright shirt, shorts and flippers.

**Larry:** Hello chaps! I’m ready to go!

**Helen:** Oh not you as well!

**Larry:** Only kidding. I’ve got lots of warm stuff. *(Shouting off-stage.)* Bring it in!

*Some servants appear, carrying boxes and boxes of stuff. Include as much ludicrous and unwieldy stuff – skis, snowboard, climbing ropes, tents – as you can.*

**Fay:** Where did all this come from?

**Larry:** I just got my dad to order everything for me. I thought, if we’re going to take a message to an important scientist across snowfields, over glaciers and up and down mountains, I’d better be prepared. And best of all, I got this massive cake! *(He opens a box, takes out a cake and starts munching it.)*

**Helen:** Well, all this is brilliant! I can do lots of daredevil stuff with this. *(She picks out bits of equipment and mimes everything as she describes it.)* Climb walls of ice, ride through icy forests, ski down mountains, fight off polar bears… I’ll be famous after this!

**Fay:** But you are famous, aren’t you? I thought I’d heard of you, so I looked you up on the internet. *(She pulls out a sheet of paper.)* Ah yes, that was it. You were the navigator of that expedition that got lost on the way to Lapland, weren’t you?

**Helen:** Erm, yeah, sort of.

**Scott:** How did you get lost?

**Helen:** I missed the right track because I was making a skiing video for my YouTube channel.
Fay: And you were on the team that went to northern Canada and got stuck in the ice.

Helen: Er...

Larry: What did you get wrong that time?

Helen: Well, when I was ordering the supplies, I ticked the wrong box on the form and instead of a large Arctic ship, I ended up with a large bag of chips. Anyone could have made the same mistake!

Fay: What about the adventure to the Antarctic where you got attacked by penguins?

Helen: Well, how was I to know that penguins love to eat the hi-energy biscuits we had?

Fay: You kept dropping them on the floor.

Helen: Well, I was scared of losing our way, so I thought I’d leave a trail of crumbs – you know, like Hansel and Gretel!

Fay: I don’t believe it. I’ve got an old explorer who thinks he can go anywhere as long as he’s got an old tennis racquet and a bag of toffees, a Prince who can’t go anywhere without his servants and now someone who has made so many mistakes, I’m surprised she hasn’t been on You’ve Been Framed! There’s no way we can go on this expedition. I’m calling HQ. (She goes over to the radio and picks up the mouthpiece.) Hello HQ, this is base camp. Come in HQ.

We hear the voice of the Chief over the radio.

Chief: Hello base camp. What’s the problem?

Fay: It’s the team you put together, Chief, I’m afraid they’re not up to the job!

Larry: Hang on a minute!

Scott: That’s not fair!

Helen: (Glumly.) She’s right.

Fay: One’s too old, one’s too inexperienced and Helen Skelter can’t seem to do anything right. She’s made so many mistakes, I’m surprised she’s still alive!

Chief: Fay, Fay. Let me stop you there. HQ knows all about Helen’s past mistakes. But we know she’s learnt her lesson and we selected her especially for this mission.

During the conversation, Helen gets more and more happy.

Fay: What? Really?

Chief: Yes, Fay. Each one of you has been chosen to play your part, including Helen. She’s a brave woman, who has just got it wrong in the past. We think all she needs is some encouragement, a new compass and a lesson on the difference between ships and chips.

Fay: But…

Chief: No ‘buts’ Fay. You’re all on this expedition together. If you work together, you’ll be fine and we can get the message to Professor Yvonne Von Evian safely. HQ out. (The radio goes silent.)

Fay: (Putting the mouthpiece down in disbelief.) Well, I suppose we’re all on the team, no matter how crazy, unprepared or accident-prone we are…

Helen: Amazing! (She hugs Fay.)

Larry: Excellent!

Scott: (Aside.) And I can blame Helen when everything goes wrong.

Fay: What?

Scott: Er… Um… I said, I’m so happy I could burst into song! (He launches into an awkward rendition of ‘The
Happy Wanderer’ or ‘Climb Every Mountain’. The others look at him as if he’s crazy.)

**Larry:** Are you sure you’re not wearing a fake moustache?

**Scott:** *(Getting out his hankie to cover his mouth.)* Of course not! *(He sneezes unconvincingly.)*

**Fay:** Well, let's get all this stuff packed up. We need to get going!

Fay, Helen and Scott start to gather everything up, but they keep dropping things. Larry watches for a few seconds, then turn to shout off-stage.

**Larry:** I say, my good fellows, can you give me a hand?

Larry’s servants come on, pick everything up and carry it off.

**Helen:** Well, I suppose being a prince does have its benefits, come on! Let’s go on our expedition!

They all leave.
Scene

A hastily made encampment. Tents are half put-up, rucksacks and skis discarded haphazardly. Helen and Larry enter, carrying odd tent poles, pegs and a mallet. They are wearing all their cold weather gear, with scarves round their faces. For about 15 seconds, they gesticulate wildly at each other while making muffled noises, as if their scarves are distorting their speech. Eventually, Helen mimes that they should take their scarves off.

Helen: I thought you knew how to put up a tent!

Larry: I do! I give the tent and the instructions to the servants and they do it for me.

Helen: (Groaning.) Oh! You’re in the middle of a frozen wasteland. You don’t have any servants here.

Larry: (Looking around.) Oh. Yes.

Fay enters, carrying a snow shovel over her shoulder.

Fay: What are you two arguing about? (She sees the tents and stops in her tracks.) What are those? We can’t sleep in those!

Helen: His Royal Highness here doesn’t seem to know how to do anything without his servants.

Larry: Well, what about you? I thought you were an outdoor daredevil! You must have put a tent up before.

Helen: Er… Not this… Um… Not this kind...

Fay: I don’t believe it.

As she says this, she turns away and forces Larry to duck to avoid being hit in the face with the snow shovel. During the next few lines, Fay should turn and move around the stage, causing both Helen and Larry to duck to avoid the shovel.

Larry: Look out!

Fay: (Turning back.) What? Is it a polar bear?

Helen: Watch what you’re doing!

Fay: What I’m doing? Look at these tents! We can only get in them if we lie down flat!

Larry: Argh! You almost hit me in the face!

Fay: What do you mean? I will hit you in the face, if you don’t get these tents sorted. Now where’s Scott?

Scott enters, looking very bedraggled. He limps on, but gives an overly theatrical wink to the children. He’s been up to no good.

Fay: Great Scott! Where have you been? What’s happened to you?

She turns with one last swing of the snow shovel. This one knocks Larry over.

Larry: (Getting up and rubbing his head.) Put that shovel down!

Fay: Oh! Sorry!

She puts the shovel down and helps Larry upright, rubbing his head. Scott stands up straight, looking bored, waiting for someone to notice him.

Fay: What happened to you?

Scott: (Forgetting he’s meant to be injured.) What do you mean? (He realises his mistake and starts to hobble and groan again.) Aaaaah! Ow! Ow!

Helen: (Rushing over to him.) What’s wrong?
Scott: Oh dear! Oh dear! I was trying to sort out the food, making sure we had enough for each day, when I was
attacked by a giant white creature!

Larry: (Shrieking.) The abominable snowman! (He leaps into Fay’s arms.)

Fay: (Dropping him.) Get off me! There’s no such thing as the abominable snowman!

Scott: It was a giant polar bear. He must have been waiting for us! As soon as I unloaded some of the food, he was
on top of me, trying to get all our supplies!

Helen: Eek!

Larry: Oh no!

Fay: It must have been a quiet polar bear, they usually roar really loudly! I never heard anything.

Scott: Er… yes… it was… (He pauses to think.) He… he was on a sponsored silence!

Larry: Oh, I’ve done one of those. I wasn’t allowed to speak for a whole day! I did very well, I made it nearly to
breakfast time!

Helen: (Incredulous.) A polar bear doing a sponsored silence?

Scott: (Realising that didn’t sound very convincing.) Er, yes. (Trying to change the subject.) Anyway, he took all the
food and ran off into the snow!

Fay: So, what’s left?

Scott: Nothing.

Helen: Nothing.

Fay: What are we going to eat?

Scott: I tried to fight him off, but he was too strong.

Helen: What are we going to do?

Fay: We’d better go and find out what we’ve got left! (She, Helen and Larry run off.)

Scott: (Laughing.) Well, that’s ruined that! I threw almost all of the food off a cliff! I’ve saved enough for me, but
not for them… (The leaders should encourage the children to boo.) Oh shut up! (He laughs again, this time so much
that his moustache starts to fall off – Scott can pull it away slightly with his hand while he laughs.)

Fay: (Coming back on with the others, shocked.) There’s nothing left.

Helen: Not a sausage.

Larry: Oh don’t say sausages, I want one and I can’t have one now. (Looking at Scott.) Great Scott! What’s
happened to your moustache?

Scott: (Hurriedly sticking it back on his face.) Oh, er, it must have frozen and the wind blew it off!

Fay: Well, unless we can hunt or fish some food, or find some plants, then we’re done for.

Helen: The ice is too thick and I haven’t seen a plant for miles!

Fay: (Sitting down on a rucksack, dejectedly.) That’s it then. We’re doomed.

Larry: Well, it’s my birthday next week, and my mum didn’t want me to miss out on my usual birthday feast, so
she packed a small food parcel. (He rummages in one of the bags.) Here we go. (He pulls out sandwiches wrapped
Fay: Well, I suppose this will keep us going for a little while – we might be able to send a message. But the radio’s been out since this morning. I think it must be the weather.

Larry: I think there’s more stuff in the food parcel. Let me look. (He looks back in the bag and calls the following list out over his shoulder.) Yep, there’s 24 freeze-dried chicken dinners, 16 freeze-dried lamb dinners, 10 freeze-dried fish and chips, 4 freeze-dried black forest gateaus, 8 tubs of ice cream and a Curly Wurly. Two Curly Wurlys. No wait a minute, there are ten! (He turns back round holding a handful of Curly Wurlys.)

Helen: How big are your birthday banquets?

Fay: Never mind that, how did you manage to carry all of that stuff? I’ve never seen you carrying anything heavier than a bacon double cheeseburger!

Larry: Oh, my mum’s really good at packing bags. Shall we put the stove on and un-freeze-dry some chicken dinners?

Helen and Fay: Yes!

Larry picks up the food bag and he, Fay and Helen go off-stage. Scott is left alone – he is angry.

Scott: I don’t believe it! How could that fool Larry suddenly have so much food! I’ll have to think of something else to ruin this expedition!

There is a sound effect of a large crack and rumble. Scott starts to stagger and almost loses his balance.

Scott: Whoa! The ice, it’s breaking up! The camp’s not going to be safe for much longer. (He steadies himself and has an idea.) That’s it! If we leave all the equipment here, it will either fall down a crack or just float away on the ice! And I can blame that idiot Helen and Prince Useless for pitching camp in the wrong place! (He shouts off-stage.) Wait for me!

He runs off. The children boo and hiss!
Episode 3

Scene

The stage is empty apart from snow. The team wearily trudge on. They have virtually no equipment: Larry is carrying his food bag, Fay has the radio on her back and Helen has a pair of skis over her shoulder.

Fay: Larry, your birthday banquet food parcel was a miracle, but we need another miracle now. All our equipment is gone!

Helen: (To Scott.) You were the last one in the camp, didn’t you notice that anything was wrong?

Scott: No, not at all! I would have noticed if the ice was breaking up! (He gets more and more animated as he tells the story. The others watch in disbelief.) When I was in the Canadian Arctic in the 1960s, I got trapped on an ice floe in Payne Bay. Killer whales were circling all around and all I had to fight them off with was a box of toffee and some frozen baguettes. They leapt in the air, their jaws open wide, ready to eat me. As quick as a flash, I jammed their mouths open with the baguettes and threw the toffee in. They had to bite down so hard to snap the baguettes that their teeth got stuck together on the toffee! And I was rescued by the local missionary, driving a massive tractor.

Helen: A baguette?

Fay: A box of toffee?

Larry: A missionary on a massive tractor?

Helen: What rubbish!

Fay: You're making it up!

Larry: You're definitely wearing a false moustache...

Scott: (Covering his mouth.) No I’m not! Anyway, what I mean is I didn’t notice anything was wrong when I joined you for our amazing freeze-dried chicken dinner.

Fay: I can’t believe all our tents, our bags, skis… everything fell down that big crack in the ice.

Scott: Crevasse.

Larry: Well, there’s no need to be rude!

Scott: No, my good fellow. A crack in the ice is called a crevasse.

Helen: What are we going to do? All we have is Larry’s food, these skis and the radio, which I managed to rescue before it fell into the crevasse.

Fay: And the radio hasn’t worked for ages. I don’t know what’s wrong with it.

Scott: Have you tried turning it off and turning it back on again?

Fay: Yes.

Helen: Have you tried changing the channels so you can try different frequencies?

Fay: Yes!

Larry: Have you tried tuning it in to Radio 2? I love listening to Chris Evans in the morning! (He goes to fiddle with the radio.)

Fay: (Getting more and more annoyed.) No, of course not! I’ve tried everything I can think of. Nothing works – it’s broken or frozen or we’re out of range or whatever. It’s no use (She shouts.) IT DOESN’T WORK!

Suddenly the radio crackles into life. We hear the Chief’s voice.

Chief: Hello Fay, come in Fay Mears, over.
**Fay:** Wh-what? (*To Larry.*) What happened? What did you do?

**Larry:** Er, I turned the volume up.

**Fay:** (*Picking up the mouthpiece.*) Chief! Chief! It’s so good to hear your voice! We’ve lost all our equipment – the ice sheet broke up and it fell into a crevasse!

**Chief:** Don’t worry Fay. We’re checking your GPS location as we speak. We’ll see whether anything is in range.

**Larry:** We’re in the middle of nowhere. Nothing’s going to be in range.

**Helen:** (*Sarcastically.*) Maybe there’s a missionary on a tractor nearby.

**Chief:** We’ve checked our maps and computer records. It seems there’s something 25 miles to the east of you. We’re not quite sure what it is, because it was left there by a Swedish team quite a few years ago now. We’re trying to contact the Swedish team to find out, but you could go and take a look.

**Fay:** We can’t go 25 miles in this weather, it would take us over a day! We’d never survive without tents and the rest of our cold-weather gear!

**Chief:** Fay, it’s the only option – there’s nothing else around. You’ve got to go.

**Helen:** I’ll go! I’m Helen ‘Helter’ Skelter! I can ski all the way there – it’ll take much less time than walking.

**Scott:** Nonsense. You’ll get lost – remember all the mistakes you made before?

**Helen:** If the Chief thinks I can be part of his expedition team, then you should too. And I’ve learnt from my mistakes! Anyway, we’ve got no choice but to try. You start walking east, and I’ll ski on ahead and find out what’s there!

**Fay:** She’s right – you ski, Helen, we’ll follow on. Come on guys.

Helen rushes off with the skis. The others walk in a circle around the stage a couple of times. As they go round, someone could throw fake snow over them. A sign saying ‘Two hours later’ is held up (or the words could appear on the screen). The radio crackles into life again, but this time, we hear Helen’s voice.

**Helen:** Hello Fay, come in Fay. This is Helen, over.

**Fay:** (*Speaking into the mouthpiece.*) Helen! Wow! Are you there?

**Helen:** Of course – I’m Helter Skelter! And you won’t believe what’s here! It’s a store full of stuff – food, equipment, tents and clothing! It’s amazing! Chief was right to send us here!

**Larry:** Fantastic! (*He goes to high-five Scott, but Scott just looks at him, annoyed.*) (He goes to high-five Scott, but Scott just looks at him, annoyed.)

**Scott:** (*Bitterly.*) Yes. Brilliant.

**Helen:** I’ll put some stuff onto a sledge and ski back to you, then we can all ski back to the Swedish store. They’ve even got meatballs!

**Fay:** I never thought we’d find the store – I thought 25 miles was just too far!

**Larry:** Let’s have a Curly Wurly to celebrate! (*He takes three out of his bag and hands them round.*)

**Fay:** Thanks! Come on, let’s go, the quicker we walk, the sooner we’ll meet up with Helen. And the sooner we can get the Chief’s message to Professor Yvonne Von Evian!

**Fay and Larry run off. Scott stays on stage – he is fuming.**

**Scott:** (*Throwing his Curly Wurly on the floor in disgust.*) I don’t believe it! Everything I try to do to ruin this mission just doesn’t work! This expedition should have failed by now and the Chief should have been disgraced. I’m still not giving up. This team is so stupid that another chance is bound to come up. Then the Chief will be sorry for turning me down.

He stomps off to the boos and hisses of the children and leaders.
Episode 4

Scene

Out in the snow, on the trail to find the Professor. There is snow and some fake rocks on stage. The team enter with lots of new equipment (this can be the original equipment, with Swedish flags stuck on it!) and all but Scott are wearing snow goggles. They are in good spirits, apart from Scott, who comes on last and is still angry. The weather is bad – occasionally, fake snow is thrown from the side of the stage.

Fay: That Swedish store was amazing! So much stuff!
Helen: Yeah, some great new skis and a snowboard!
Larry: (P-patting his stomach.) And so many meatballs! I couldn’t eat another thing!
Fay: It’s a good job they had these snow goggles, the sun reflecting off the snow was really bright!
Helen: Where has the sun gone now? I can’t believe it’s snowing after such a clear blue sky.
Fay: The weather can change really quickly out here, you’ve got to be ready for anything.
Larry: After all those meatballs, I’m ready for a nap!
Helen: Well, maybe we could stop for a moment. We’ve been going for a few hours now, and it’s getting more and more difficult.

*They take off their packs and goggles and stretch or sit down on the fake rocks.*

Fay: Well, I’m glad that this expedition is finally going according to plan. After losing all our food to a polar bear, and then all our equipment down a crevasse, I thought we were done for.
Helen: Yep, it’s certainly been dangerous, but I’m Helen ‘Helter’ Skelter! I laugh in the face of danger! (She laughs loudly in Larry’s face.)
Larry: Get off me! How are you doing Scott? You’ve not said much since we left the Swedish store.
Scott: (S-sulking.) Humph. I’m fine. (He starts blinking his eyes.)
Helen: Are you OK?
Scott: Yes, I’m fine. The snow keeps getting in my eyes.

*Some more fake snow is thrown on stage. It goes right in Scott’s face.*

Larry: Time for a snack? (He pulls four Curly Wurlys out of his bag and hands them round.)
Fay: You know, I’m going to send a big thank-you card to your mum when we get back. What a birthday banquet – it saved our lives!

*Scott starts rubbing his eyes and moaning a bit.*

Fay: Scott, did you have your snow goggles on earlier?
Helen: Are you sure you’re OK? What’s wrong with your eyes?
Scott: (Annoyed.) There’s nothing wrong with my eyes! Leave me alone you stupid woman!
Fay: (Slightly taken aback.) Alright, Scott. Keep it calm.

Suddenly Scott puts his hands over his eyes in pain, he crumples onto the floor. The others rush to kneel beside him.

Larry: Scott, what’s wrong?
Helen: Are you OK?
Scott: My eyes! They hurt so much!
Fay: Scott, did you have your snow goggles on earlier?
Scott: No.

Larry: (To Fay.) Why, what difference would that make?

Fay: He’s probably got photokeratitis.

Larry: Photo-who?

Helen: Kera-what?

Fay: Snow blindness. The bright sun reflecting off the snow earlier would have hurt his eyes badly. It’s like sunburn, but in your eyes!

Larry: Ouch!

Fay: Quick, we need to get snow goggles on him.

Larry struggles with trying to put snow goggles on Scott. Finally he succeeds, but pulls Scott’s fake moustache off at the same time.

Larry: (Holding the moustache.) Argh! (He throws it at Helen, who screams.)

Helen: (Brushing the fake moustache off her and onto the floor.) Eek! What is that?

Fay: (Picking it up and looking at it.) It’s a fake moustache!

Larry: I knew it!

The radio crackles into life. We hear the Chief’s voice.


Scott: What? Impossible! How do you know?

Helen: What? Who’s Paul McSmall?

Fay: (Speaking into the mouthpiece.) Er, Chief, Fay here. Is that message meant for us? There’s no one called Paul here.

Chief: Yes Fay. We’ve discovered that Great Scott isn’t who he says he is. He is in fact Paul McSmall, an explorer who I turned down for a place at Polar Explorers.

Helen: (Shocked.) So you’re not Great Scott!

Fay: (Angry.) You’re an imposter!

Larry: (Upset.) And I shared my birthday banquet with you!

Scott/Paul: Chief? Is that you? How did you know?

Chief: Because the real Great Scott is sitting here, drinking hot chocolate with me.

Fay: But why?

Chief: We’re not sure why, but another of our expedition teams found all your food at the bottom of a cliff, and when you told us that you’d lost your equipment too, we began to get suspicious.

Helen: (To Scott/Paul.) You threw our food off a cliff?

Larry: What? You mean you didn’t get attacked by a polar bear doing a sponsored silence?

Chief: Why did you do it, Paul?

Scott/Paul: (Less angry, more whining.) You wouldn’t take me on your expedition. You turned me down flat, without giving me a chance.

Chief: But that’s not true, is it Paul? We would have given you a place, but you were too proud and mean to work with others – you wanted all the glory for yourself. If we’d given you a place, you could have put all your team in danger. And you have done that – Fay, Larry and Helen could have been killed.
Scott/Paul:  *Pausing before speaking.* Yes. I suppose you’re right. *Quietly.* I’ve even blinded myself because I was too proud to listen to Fay’s advice about wearing snow goggles. Now I might never see again.

**Chief:** Yes, you will. You’ll be better in a day or so, Fay should know what to do to help you get better. Paul, you’re out there in the frozen wilderness and if you don’t change your ways, you could die. You need to work with the others to get the message to the Professor. Can you do that, Paul?

Scott/Paul: Yes. I can.

**Chief:** Paul, you’re going to have to rely on the others until you get better. Look after him, Fay. I have a feeling he may have learnt his lesson.

**Fay:** Will do, Chief. Fay Mears out. *(She puts down the mouthpiece.)* Come on guys, let’s make camp over there. *(She points off-stage.)* There’s some protection from the wind and snow.

**Larry:** Who’d have thought it? An imposter in our midst!

_They all exit, Larry helping Scott/Paul._
Episode 5

Scene

Professor Yvonne Von Evian’s shelter. There are scientific instruments, monitors etc around about the place, as well as skis, coats and other snow equipment. Our team enter in high spirits. Paul is wearing sunglasses.

Fay: This is it! We’re here!
Helen: I can’t believe we’ve made it, after all that’s happened.
Larry: Yes, who’d have thought I’d get this far. And without any servants!
Paul: Are we here? Do you think I can take my sunglasses off?
Fay: Well, it is pretty dark in here, it’s certainly not as bright as outside. I suppose you can take them off for a few minutes.
Paul: (Taking off his sunglasses.) Where is she then?
Larry: There’s no one here!
Fay: Professor!
Helen: Yvonne! Are you here?
Larry: Maybe she’s gone out to the shops!
Paul: There aren’t many shops around here. I think the nearest supermarket must be, well, around 200 miles away.
Fay: (Looking off-stage.) I hope she’s not outside, it looks like there’s a snow storm on the way. And with those high winds, it’s going to be a blizzard.
Larry: You know, after all the adventures we’ve had – the polar bear attack…
Helen: There was no polar bear, remember?
Paul: Yes, sorry about that.
Larry: We lost all our food, then all our equipment. Then we found that Swedish equipment store, which had more meatballs than IKEA. And then we discovered that Great Scott wasn’t Great Scott after all, and was called Paul McSmall. And then he got snow blindness and we had to lead him all the way…
Fay: What’s your point, Larry?
Larry: You’d think she would have left us a note or something.
Paul: Well, it’s not as if she knew we were coming!
Larry: No, I suppose not.
Fay: She can’t have gone far. Let’s make some tea while we wait.

Work out a slapstick routine around the four people trying to make the tea. One can go out and get some (fake) snow, which they drop on someone. They then get some more and so on. People can trip, people can drop tea bags or throw them at each other, the milk can be frozen… In the end they make four cups of tea and sit down.

Helen: Fay, I don’t think you’ve actually told us what the message is that we had to bring to Professor Yvonne Von Evian. What is it that she needs to know so desperately?
Fay: (Pulling an envelope from her pocket.) It’s here, but Chief told me not to open it.
Larry: Well, couldn’t we try to open the envelope and find out?
Fay: No!
Larry: Oh come on. I bet we could reseal it and the Professor would never know!

Helen: Yes! If we steamed it open, we wouldn’t tear the paper.

Paul: Go on Fay! I’m dying to know!

Larry: Go on Fay!

Fay: (Looking doubtful before relenting.) Oh, alright then. I’m sure she’ll tell us when she reads it anyway.

They all crowd round the envelope as Fay tries to peel the corner back. Suddenly the door opens and the Professor walks in accompanied by a whoosh of fake snow. She is completely cocooned in outdoor clothing. We can barely see her face. However, the team are so intent on opening the envelope that they don’t notice. The Professor walks off stage the other side.

Fay: Did you feel a big draft then?

Larry: Sorry, I burped.

Fay, Helen and Paul: Eurgh!

They go back to the envelope. The Professor appears, this time without her coat and scarf. She notices them and walks up behind them, watching what Fay is doing. They stay like this for a moment before the Professor speaks.

Yvonne: What are you doing?

The others shout in surprise – they hadn’t noticed she was there. Fay hastily reseals the envelope, hoping the Professor hasn’t seen.

Fay: Professor! How good to see you!

Helen: We’ve come such a long way!

Paul: And learnt so much!

Larry: And eaten so many meatballs!

Yvonne: Well, it’s good to see you – I’ve been cut off for months. My radio stopped working and I haven’t been able to contact anyone. Even my satellite phone is broken.

Fay: The Chief sent us with this message. (She hands the Professor the envelope.)

Larry: (As the Professor is opening the envelope.) I hope you don’t mind me asking, but you’re very young to be a professor.

Paul: I was thinking that too!

Yvonne: Yes, I suppose I am! I went to university when I was really young, and so when I was ready to join the team, I was about ten years younger than everyone else. No one thought I should be part of any expeditions, as I was so young. But the Chief knew I was ready, regardless of how old I was. And here I am, doing some great research at the pole!

She finally opens the envelope and reads the letter. She smiles, nods and puts the paper back in the envelope.

Helen: What does it say?

Larry: I’m dying to know!

Paul: Come on Professor!

Fay: If you’re allowed to tell us, we’d love to know. After all, we’ve brought it all this way.

Yvonne: Of course. The Chief needed to tell me that I was being sent a new team to help me in my work here.

Helen: (A bit crestfallen.) Oh, is that it?

Fay: That’s not a very exciting message.
Larry: You mean we risked life and limb and Curly Wurly to deliver that?

Paul: I wonder why the Chief didn’t just send the new team with the message.

Yvonne: He did.

Larry: Hang on, do you mean that there’s another team on their way with the same message? Oh I could have stayed at home and got my servants to feed me cake all day long!

Yvonne: No Larry! Think about it. You are my new team!

Fay: (Getting the idea and smiling.) Oh!

Helen: (Getting the idea and smiling.) Oh!

Paul: (Getting the idea and smiling.) Oh!

Larry: (Not getting the idea at all.) Eh?

Yvonne: You’re staying here – you’re going to help me!

Fay: They’ll probably have a well-earned rest!

Helen: And I’ll be able to do lots of cross-country skiing here, gathering information for the Professor’s research – lots of danger and lots of excitement!

Paul: And I’ll get a chance to prove what I can do!

Fay: And I’ll enjoy not being in charge for a while. I might even have a nap right now!

Yvonne: Well, don’t get too comfortable, there’s lots to be done. But for now, let’s have some food and get an early night – you deserve it!

They all laugh and go off chatting excitedly about what they’re going to do.
Scene

The Professor’s station, with the same range of equipment and scientific instruments as Episode 5. The characters come on from either side, holding clipboards/tablets, bringing in a tray of tea etc. As one character swings round some skis, another instinctively ducks. One person picks up tea and gives it to another, on their way to completing another task.

Yvonne: It’s been amazing having you here. We’ve been working together so well, and we’ve only just got started!

Paul: Well, Prof, we learnt so much on our journey here and went through so much, that we became quite a team!

Helen: I made so many mistakes in the past, but being given another chance and with the help of my friends, I’ve done some great things! You’ve never made too many mistakes to be part of the expedition.

Fay: Yes, we never would have survived if you hadn’t skied to the Swedish equipment store.

Larry: Mm… All those meatballs.

Fay: And we discovered that the most unlikely people can be good at many things – who would have thought Larry would have saved us all with his birthday banquet food parcel!

Larry: (Embarrassed.) Oh, you guys! You’re never too ordinary to be part of the expedition!

Fay: And I learnt that no matter how far away something is, or how desperate the situation, you need to trust the advice you get from the people who know. You’re never too near or far to stay part of the expedition.

Paul: And I learnt the most important lesson of all. That we need to work for the good of everyone and not be selfish. Thankfully, the Chief and the team forgave all the horrible things I did. You’re never too bad to be part of the expedition!

Yvonne: And I’ve always known that you’re never too young! You know, we should make a record of all of this so we remember. Why don’t we make a video log?

Helen: Ooh, a vlog! Great idea Prof!

Larry: You know, I know I don’t need them, but I still miss my servants. It is nice to put your feet up while someone does something for you.

Fay: We thought as much, so Paul and I made you a surprise! Go and get it Paul.

Larry: Ooh, I love surprises!

Paul and Helen go out and return with a giant highly decorated cake and a tray of tea. Paul puts the cake in front of Larry. But as Helen brings the tray in, she trips and falls against Yvonne, who pushes Fay, who nudges Paul, who accidentally pushes Larry’s face into the cake. Larry eventually lifts his face up and it’s covered in icing. The others looked shocked at what’s happened.

Helen, Yvonne, Fay and Paul: (All together) Sorry, Larry.

Larry puts his fingertip into the icing on his face then licks it. He breaks into a big smile.

Larry: What could be better – a face full of cake, made by my expedition team!

He grabs a handful of cake and shoves it into his mouth. Someone hands him a towel, and they all go off together.