

THE THING (1982)

Story Beats by D. McClellan

1. FLYING SAUCER ENTERS EARTH ATMOSPHERE – TITLE
2. ANTARCTICA 1982 – Helicopter flies over icy terrain
 - a. HUSKY RUNS away from helicopter approaching
 - b. MAN SHOOTS AT DOG from helicopter
3. NATIONAL SCIENCE STATION 4 – MACREADY plays chess with computer
 - a. Drinking scotch – loses to computer – dumps scotch into it
4. HELICOPTER chases HUSKY through station exterior
 - a. Circles camp
 - i. Norwegians in helicopter
 - b. DROP GRENADES to kill wolf
 - c. They land
 - i. Chases husky with gun
 - ii. Drop grenade by accident
 1. BLOWS UP HELICOPTER & PILOT
 - d. NORWEGIAN SHOOTS AT HUSKY
 - i. Dog licking SCIENTIST
 1. BULLET HITS Scientist
 - e. Everyone ducks for cover
 - f. Norwegian chases wolf through camp with rifle
 - i. Aims at dog –
 - g. [7:30] SCIENTIST SHOOTS Norwegian in head killing him
 - h. GEORGE SHOT IN LEG – OK
 - i. MACREADY and guys inspect burning helicopter
 - j. CLARK takes DOG and pets him
5. GEORGE GETS STITCHES IN LEG –
 - a. Cabin fever – who knows why they did it
 - b. CALL IN TO BASE – we got to report this mess
 - i. Can't get through to anybody for last 2 weeks
 - c. CAPTAIN and crew discuss what happened
 - d. DECIDE TO SEND SEARCH OUT TO NORWEGIAN CAMP
 - i. Weather should let up
 1. Hour there an hour back
 - e. THEY CONVINCED MACREADY TO FLY THEM TO CAMP
 - i. Weather not good
 - f. HUSKY hides under table waiting
 - g. MACREADY FLIES CAPTAIN & GUY OUT OF CAMP
6. LATER AT BASE – NAULS – THE COOK PLAYS MUSIC
 - a. George trying to sleep
 - b. [13:40] DOG walks through halls of the base searching
 - i. Heads into room with a PERSON INSIDE
7. [15:00] MACREADY FLIES & ARRIVES AT NORWEGIAN CAMP
 - a. Everything is burned out – smoldering
 - b. LANDS in middle of camp
 - c. 2 GUYS Search through camp
 - i. Flashlights & shotguns
 - d. Bloody ax in wall
 - e. BLOOD trail in snow
 - f. Dead man frozen in chair
 - i. Straight razor in hand – throat cut
 1. What happened here?
 - g. Walk through rooms covered in snow

- h. PORTABLE VIDEO UNIT found
 - i. DOC takes back the video cam and the work files
 - j. MAC checks out last few rooms
 - i. Getting late – we gotta get back
 - k. [19:30] ICE BLOCK FOUND by MACREADY
 - i. Maybe they found a fossil?
 - l. Outside see burned bodies
 - i. Is that a man in there
 - 1. Whatever it is -They burned it up in a hurry
 - a. Get a shovel
8. FLY BACK TO BASE – HUSKY watches them from inside
- a. CARRY THING FROM HELICOPTER
 - b. [21:30] INSIDE – MEN ALL SEE DEAD THING ON TABLE
 - i. We found this
 - 1. BLAIR – start an autopsy right away
 - c. HUSKY watches them from side
9. WINDOWS CAN'T REACH ANYBODY ON RADIO
- a. 1000 miles from nowhere and it's only gonna get worse
10. AUTOPSY – nothing wrong with dead Norwegians - healthy
- a. CUTS OPEN THING – normal internal organs
11. LATER WATCHING TV GAME SHOWS – video tapes
- a. Smoke a joint
 - b. Playing pool – cards
 - c. SHOCK SCARE – HUSKY under table
 - i. Put this mutt where it belongs
 - d. CLARK takes HUSKY to kennel with other huskies
 - i. It lies down in center of kennel
 - ii. Dogs start barking
 - e. [27:00] THING/DOG RIPS OPEN IN KENNEL
 - i. Transforms into SPIDER CRAB THING
 - 1. Dogs going crazy
 - a. THING shoots LIQUID at DOG
 - f. CLARK hears DOGS making noise – heads back
 - i. OPENS KENNEL – DOGS run out
 - ii. THING attacks DOC from inside
 - 1. Doc slams door with foot - Locks it
12. MACREADY GETS A BEER – hears dogs
- a. Pulls FIRE ALARM
 - b. EVERYONE IN CAMP gets up
 - c. GILES – MAC wants the flamethrower
 - d. THEY ALL GET GUNS – head to KENNEL
 - e. MACREADY sees THING in KENNEL
 - i. THING GOES and takes DOG
 - f. MAC fires shotgun into THING
 - i. CAPT fires into DOG/THING
 - g. MAC kills DOG –
 - i. CLARK pulls MAC's rifle –
 - h. MEN WATCH THING TRANSFORM INTO MONSTER HANDS
 - i. DOG THING - Pulls itself into ceiling
 - i. GILES arrives with flamethrower [30:32]
 - i. THING transforms to GET HIM
 - j. GILES TORCHES THING
 - k. Put out fire

ACT 2

13. [31:49] DOC AUTOPSY ON THING IN LAB
 - a. pulls out a dog body
 14. [33:00] DOC'S REVEAL – THING IMITATES LIFE FORMS PERFECTLY
 - a. It imitates whatever it takes over
 - b. LATER – Asks CLARK if he noticed anything strange about dog
 - i. Takes blood form dog on table
 - ii. What was it doing in the rec room
 1. Wandering around camp all day
 - a. You mead dog was out all day?
 2. How long were you with that dog?
 - iii. DOC suspects CLARK to be THING
15. WATCHING VIDEO OF NORWEGIANS
 - a. 9 hours of video
 - b. Norwegians found something buried under ice
 - c. Planting thermite charges
 - d. Blow up ice
 - e. Find place on map
 - f. MAC decides to go up there
16. IN HELI – FLYING UP TO THE FIND [36:25]
 - a. AT THE FIND – MEN GET OUT walk to dig
 - b. [37:00] UFO REVEALED UNDER ICE
 - c. Climb down to UFO using ropes
 - d. ON UFO – MAC and GUY inspect the open hatch
 - e. Been here for at least 100,000 years – due to ice levels
 - f. Find ICE CHUNK
17. BACK AT CAMP LATER – TELL WHAT THEY SAW
 - a. GILES not buying it
 - b. METAL from craft
 - c. MAC explains it to them
 - d. DIRTY LAUNDRY in kitchen bit
 - e. BLAIR studies pics of Norwegians
 - i. You buy any of this shit Blair?
18. COMPUTER GRAPHIC OF CELL ASSIMILATION
 - a. Blair times it with the dog
 - b. 75% infection of other TEAM MEMBERS
 - c. 27,000 HOURS to infect world population
 - d. BLAIR takes pistol out of desk
19. MAC drinks scotch – looks at dirty shirt from kitchen
 - a. Called to help move his stuff out of store room
 - b. STORE ROOM – WENDEL & BENNINGS
 - i. Moving DEAD THING into store room
 - c. FUCHS wants to talk to MAC outside alone
 - d. We ought to burn these things
 - i. Can't burn the find of the century
 - ii. THINGS start to MOVE under the covers
 1. COMING ALIVE – dripping bloody goo
20. FUCHS & MAC in snow cat – something wrong with BLAIR
 - a. READS BLAIR'S NOTES to MAC
 - b. They are not dead yet
21. [45:00] WINDOWS WALKS IN STORE ROOM - BENNINGS DEAD –
 - a. THING has taken him
 - b. MAC & FUCHS decide to get doc meet in Blair's room

- c. WINDOWS tells MAC – THING GOT BENNINGS
 - i. THING IS GONE
 - 1. Broken WINDOW
 - a. BENNINGS THING RUNNING AWAY OUTSIDE
 - d. MAC SOUNDS ALARM
 - e. CHASES BENNINGS IN SNOW
 - i. THING falls – unable to run in COLD
 - 1. MEN SURROUND THING
 - a. BENNINGS THING HAS CREATURE CLAWS
 - i. YELPS AT THEM
 - 1. THEY BURN HIM [46:50]
 - f. CAPT GARY UPSET they have to burn all of him
 - i. Known him for ten years
 - g. THEY PREPARE TO BURN BENNINGS REMAINS
 - h. TORCH ALL THINGS IN SNOW PIT
 - i. WHERE'S BLAIR?
22. LATER – NIGHT – SEARCHING FOR BLAIR – can't find him
- a. WINDOWS trying radio – everyone in rec room
 - i. FUCHS SEES BLAIR Run WITH AX from HELI - across field
 - b. MAC searches HELI –
 - i. HELI DESTROYED BY AX
 - 1. MAC hears NOISE from inside camp
23. MAC RUNS INTO STATION – MEN FIGHTING
- a. BLAIR HAS AX – shouting
 - b. BLAIR DESTROYS ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH AX
 - c. BLAIR Not letting anyone get to civilization
 - d. BLAIR shoots anyone who tries to stop him
 - e. THEY RUSH BLAIR with a TABLE
 - i. Manage to subdue him
 - 1. Knock him out
 - f. CLARK – nervous - AT KENNELS –
 - i. Is he one of them?

MIDDLE OF MOVIE

- 24. MORNING – TAKE BLAIR ACROSS CAMP – LOCK HIM IN TOOL SHED
 - a. Give him a sedative – tie him to chair
 - i. For your own protection
 - b. Blair & Mac alone – don't know who to trust
 - i. Trust is a tough thing to come by these days
 - 1. WATCH CLARK - watch him close
- 25. OUTSIDE IN SNOW – MEN DISCUSS SITUATION - RADIO IS GONE –
 - a. So are choppers
 - i. Now we are really alone until spring
 - b. All we can do is wait
 - c. MAC – we can't – one of us might be that THING
 - d. How would you know?
 - i. Is there some kind of test DOC?
 - 1. Sample of each persons blood – see if there is a reaction
 - a. We have a blood bank in storage
 - i. Doc goes to prep test
 - e. FUCHS - We need Blair's help
 - i. He's too far gone
- 26. BLOOD BANK IS SMASHED – somebody got to the blood

- a. Lock is undamaged
 - b. Somebody opened it and closed it with a key
 - c. Well who else could have used that key?
 - d. I suppose somebody could have lifted it off me
 - e. MEN ARGUE –
 - f. WINDOWS RUNS OFF
 - i. Gets shotgun
27. IN HALL – GUN ON WINDOWS – GARY has pistol out at WINDOWS
- a. WINDOWS puts shotgun on floor
 - b. GARY did not go near that blood
 - c. MAC takes gun – to be in charge from GARY
 - i. GILES not happy
28. OUTSIDE – BURN THE BLOOD BAGS –
- a. MAC STATES THE PLAN – HE'S HUMAN
 - i. Some of them are too
 - ii. Gonna make that blood test and see who is who
 - b. MAKES DOC, CLARK and GARY move away from others
 - c. TELLS NORRIS and GILES to shoot them with morphine and tie them up
 - d. INSIDE - SHOOTING THEM UP WITH MORPHINE – tied to chairs
29. MACREADY MAKING RECORDING OF WHAT IS HAPPENING –
- a. Gonna hide this tape
 - i. Found shredded long johns but the name was missing
 - ii. Nobody trusts anybody now
 - iii. Nothing else I can do – just wait
30. [1:03:00] FUCHS PREPPING TEST
- a. Make our own meals – eat out of cans
 - b. Jumps scare in lab
 - c. FUCHS follows someone outside
 - d. OUTSIDE – sees ripped clothes of RJ MACREADY [1:04:45]
31. FUCHS MISSING – MAC – says fuse blew out in lab
- a. Takes NAULS to look outside
 - b. MEN Argue who to go with
 - c. MAC lays it down –
 - i. Meet back here in 20 minutes
 - 1. Men coming apart – no trust
32. OUTSIDE SEARCHING FOR FUCHS – GO TO BLAIR'S SHED
- a. Blair wants to come back inside.
 - i. Begs to come back inside
 - b. MAC and crew walk on searching for FUCHS
 - c. SEE BURNED REMAINS IN SNOW
 - i. GLASSES IN REMAINS
 - 1. IT'S FUCHS
 - a. What are we gonna do
 - b. Get back to rec room
 - d. MAC & NAULS go to his shack
 - i. Light is on
 - 1. When I left yesterday I turned the light off
33. REC ROOM - MAC not back yet – gone 45 minutes- MEN CLOSE OUTSIDE DOORS
- a. MEN SEAL OUTSIDE DOORS – nailing them shut
 - b. [1:09:12] – SEES NAULS running toward them from outside
 - c. NAULS left MAC after he found the ripped clothes with his name on it
 - d. MEN ARGUE –
 - e. MAC at door – trying to open door

- i. Let him freeze to death outside
 - f. WINDOW SMASHED IN OTHER ROOM
 - i. MAC has the key
 - g. [1:11;30] GILES breaks through door with AX
 - h. MACREADY WITH DYNAMITE
 - i. Anyone messes with me and the whole camp goes
 - ii. Put torches on floor and back off
 - iii. MAC walks out nearly frozen to death [1:12;00]
 - i. They try to take him –
 - j. GUY not breathing – falls to floor
 - i. Go get DOC
 - 1. From now on – nobody gets out of my sight
- 34. DOC WORKS ON DEAD GUY – MAC plead his case
 - a. Ever think somebody could have taken my clothes
 - i. We ain't buying that
 - b. DOC tells WINDOWS to get DEFIBRILLATOR
 - c. CLARK grabs SURGICAL KNIFE off tray
 - d. MAC has flamethrower and dynamite
 - e. [1:13;52] THING DEFIBRILLATOR GAG with DOC
 - i. Stomach opens with teeth
 - ii. Rips DOC's arms off
 - iii. Spider THING crawls out of DEAD GUY on CEILING
 - f. MAC BLASTS IT with flame thrower
 - g. HEAD separates into THING
 - h. FALLS to floor – pulls itself across floor
 - i. PUT OUT FIRE
 - j. THING BECOMES SPIDER CRAB – hides under table
 - k. CRAWLS AWAY BEHIND THEM
 - i. MAC blasts it
- 35. [1:16;15] THE TEST – MAC ORGANIZES EVERYONE
 - a. GILES won't be tied up
 - b. MAC threatens to shoot him
 - c. CLARK lunges with KNIFE
 - d. MAC shoots CLARK – CLARK DEAD
 - e. WINDOWS ties everyone up
 - f. MAC uses WIRE
 - g. THE TEST – DRAW BLOOD – FIND OUT WHO'S THE THING
 - h. Every person cuts finger and puts blood into Petrie dish
 - i. MAC heats up WIRE with flamethrower
 - j. WINDOWS – clear
 - i. Put that on and watch them
 - k. MACREADY – CLEAR
 - l. DOC and CLARK – both dead on table – clear
 - m. Clark was human – makes you a murderer
 - n. PALMER NOW –
 - o. GARY gives him shit –
 - i. I thought you'd say that – we'll do you last
 - p. [1:21;40] PALMER – JUMP SCARE – HE'S THE THING
 - q. MEN FREAK OUT – tied up next to him
 - i. His blood races on floor – alive
 - 1. FLAMETHROWER NOT WORKING
 - a. TURNS INTO THING
 - r. JUMPS UP ON CEILING

- s. WINDOWS TRIES TO BLAST HIM
- t. THING EATS WINDOWS HEAD
 - i. Tosses Windows aside covered in blood
- u. MACREADY BLASTS THING with FLAME
- v. THING BURNS – smashes through wall outside
- w. MAC tosses dynamite – blows THING up outside
- x. MAC watches
 - i. Runs back inside
- y. BURNS WINDOWS THING IN CORNER
- 36. TEST PART 2 – REST OF MEN TESTED
 - a. GARRY tested – clean – last one
- 37. [1:25;10] MAC going out to give BLAIR the test
 - a. Tells GILES to burn him if he comes back alone
- 38. BLAIR'S SHED – HE'S GONE
 - a. FLOORBOARDS are loose
 - b. He escaped –
- 39. TUNNELS UNDERNEATH – SEARCHING FOR BLAIR
 - a. FIND a space craft being built from spare parts
 - b. Where was he trying to go?
 - i. Anyplace but here

ACT 3

- 40. [1:27;51] MEN PREPARE DYNAMITE –
 - a. See GILES outside main entrance of camp
 - i. What's eh doing outside?
 - b. LIGHTS GO OUT – AROUND CAMP
 - c. MACREADY – it got back inside and blew generator
 - i. In an hour it will be 100 below in here
 - 1. The THING wants to FREEZE itself until spring
 - 2. Can't let the thing freeze again
 - d. We're not getting out of here alive – neither is that thing
- 41. THE PLAN - SABOTAGE -- BLOW UP SPACE CRAFT [1:30;00]
 - a. SABOTAGE ALL VEHICLES
 - b. Blow up all fuel cells and gas containers
 - c. Destroy camp with dynamite
- 42. GENERATOR ROOM -
 - a. Head down stairs to generator storage
 - b. Place is half on fire – fuel burning
 - c. Generator is GONE – taken
 - d. THEY PLAN to blow it all up
 - i. GERRY plant yours down by storage
 - ii. NAULS by generator
 - e. MAC runs the fuse lines through basement
 - f. [1:34;10] DOC JUMP SCARE – GRABS GARY by face
 - i. GARY DEAD
 - g. NAULS SEES GARY being dragged by face
 - h. Heads toward far area of room
 - i. MAC setting FUSES
 - j. RAISES PUMP CHARGE
 - k. FOLLOWS NAULS - GONE
 - i. Lights stick of dynamite
 - l. THING UNDER FLOORBOARDS GAG
 - i. Tosses MAC off his feet

1. Drops Dynamite
 - 2.
 - m. THING breaks through floor – GRABS PUMP
 - n. MAC watches as THING TRANSFORMS INTO MONSTER
 - i. Tooth face – dog head stomach
 - o. Grabs LIT Dynamite stick
 - i. Tosses it into THING – runs out
 - p. THING EXPLODES
43. CAMP EXPLODING – DYNAMITE CHARGES GO OFF
- a. MACREADY runs out escapes
 - b. Walking through flames – burned out camp – MACREADY with bottle of scotch
 - c. GILES comes out with GUN
 - i. Did you kill it?
 - d. Giles sits down - fires got the temperature up all over camp
 - i. Wont last long
 1. Neither will we
 - e. What do we do?
 - f. Wait here for a little while – see what happens.
 - g. Passes bottle to GILES – they smile –
 - h. Camp burns in the darkness
 - i. [1:40;37]