



Written and Directed by Cameron Currin

## Logline

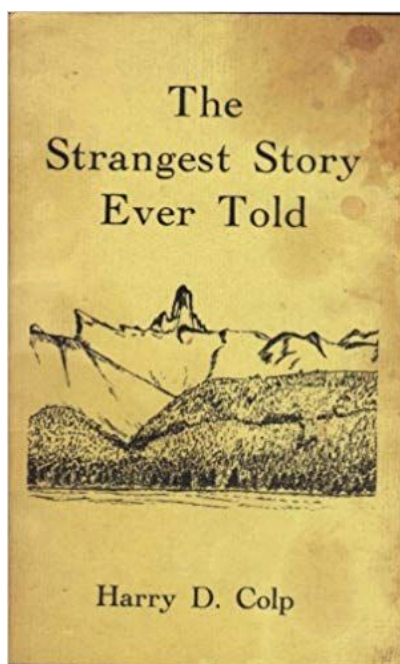
An isolated prospector hunts for gold in the Alaskan wilds. Little does he know, he is also being hunted.

## Synopsis

In the early 1900's, a recently widowed prospector struggles alone in the Alaskan wilderness in his desperate search for gold. Isolation has not been kind to him; his deceased wife haunts his dreams at night, and his excruciating labor yields nothing but worthless dregs during the day. He hears mysterious noises in the surrounding forest. Is someone or something out there? Or is his despair and loneliness overtaking him?

## About

Thank you for taking a look at our short horror film. This project has been 3 years in the making, and we are excited to show you something unique and interesting based on a local legend from Alaska. This film was originally envisioned as a combination of beautiful imagery similar to "The Revenant" by Alejandro G. Iñárritu and a slow burning horror film similar to something like "Alien" by Ridley Scott. What we came up with was a unique combination of moody atmosphere and suspenseful terror of being isolated alone in the wilderness and that pervasive feeling of being watched by something unexplainable.



This film is loosely based around the book "The Strangest Story Ever Told" written by Harry Colp. The book was discovered after his passing. It dealt with his journey into Thomas Bay, Alaska during the 1900s gold rush era, and his eventual encounter with strange creatures he coined "Devil Creatures".

We did plenty of research on the time period. Specifically everything relating to the Nome gold rush. We found a lot of source material which all ended up being useful to the film and adding to the overall back story. Watching silent films that were discovered buried under Dawson City's old hockey ring, reading articles from the post office established in the Yukon about the perils of sending mail through the Chilkoot Trail, studying the period clothing and camping techniques of prospectors. All of this history came together to give us something exciting that had never been done or attempted before.

## Location

The film was made in Kodiak, AK. We took full advantage of the scenic backdrops and spruce forests, the constant weather changes and roaring rivers, the wide oceans and towering mountains. Filming took a period of a month due to the short winter days of November and December. Even on the first day of planned filming, a massive earthquake occurred near Anchorage, launching a huge evacuation due to a possible Tsunami. Luckily, Kodiak was unaffected, and no Tsunami occurred... But Anchorage was left in shambles. All of these natural events came together to make creating a film challenging, but with the help of an amazing cast and crew, we pulled it off!

## People

### Cast:

**Paul VanDyke** - *Tim*

Member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and owner of an epic beard.

**Alicia Currin** - *Margarette/Kushtaka Creature*

New actress in this film, and spouse of the Director.

### Crew:

**Cameron Currin** - *Writer/Director/Editor*

An active duty member in the US Coast Guard, and first time director of this short horror film.

[https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6226277/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6226277/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1)

**Robert Allen Wagner** - *Producer/Practical FX*

Known for his work as producer in two feature length films, Cope(2007) and Survive(2009). [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2784391/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2784391/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1)

**Ray Rider** - *Practical FX*

Co-owner of Carver's Cigars in Kodiak, AK and maker of monster costumes.

**Laura Thomas** - *Location Manager/Production Assistant*

Active duty member of the US Coast Guard.

**Fred Martin** - *Production Assistant/Grip*

Active duty in the US Coast Guard.

**Gavin Cressley** - *Behind the Scenes/Special FX*

Interested in improving his editing skills, and founder of his Youtube channel CometDaFox <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCevISgYjT4cffR9zuUKbbSQ>

**Robert Wozniak** - *Foley/Sound*

Sound designer and music producer. 10 Years of exposure to Digital Music Production.

**Nick Dunson** - *Set Construction/Survival Expert*

Active duty member of the US Coast Guard, and interested in making a Youtube Survival series in the future called "Hawaiian Shirt Survival".

## Film Specs

Camera	Panasonic GH4
Lenses	Sigma 18-35mm, Rokinon 50mm, Lumix 12-60mm
Lighting	Mostly natural, but used Neewer LED lamps in low light.
Resolution	Filmed in Cine4k, 24fps, later downgraded to 1080p.
Color	Black and White in camera, later using LUT to pop shading.
Filming style	Most shots use a shoulder rig, but some use a gimbal or tripod.
Editing Software	Davinci Resolve (free version).
Sound	Sound was not recorded, preferring to add after filming.
Running Time	15 minutes (minus credits).

## Stills





## Q and A

### 1. How long did it take to complete this project?

- a. *About 3 years total, between writing and rewriting the script for about two years. Getting serious about making it happen, and putting out a casting call and pre-production for about a year. Shooting the film took only a month.*

### 2. What about this production is special for you?

- a. *It's my first professionally shot short film. I've wanted to be in film making my entire life. I was trying for the longest time to make a Youtube channel and become an internet phenomenon... But being in the social spotlight just wasn't meant for me. I'm a much more behind the scenes kind of guy. At one point, I just said forget it to internet fame and decided to make a film I'd like to watch.*

### 3. Why a horror film? And why the Kushtaka?

- a. *When I was a kid, my Grandma would always have the old SciFi Channel running when they were airing things like "Gremlins", "Silver Bullet", "Mac and Me", "E.T.", "Batteries Not Included" and the "Alien" movies. It was really the golden age of horror and sci-fi. Fast forward to a few years ago, after living in Alaska so long, I wanted to film something that had historical significance or a connection to the area I lived in. I researched a ton, and found out about the "Kushtaka". The more I researched, the more I enjoyed the background of it. I thought to myself that not a lot of people really understood or covered Alaskan monster mythology. There were a few things, sure, but they weren't really deeply rooted in the history of Alaska. Then when the film "The Revenant" came out, I just whispered to myself "I have to make a film in Alaska". The cinematography paired with the environment so well. Then I read "The Strangest Story Ever Told." The two came together and the idea was born.*

### 4. Why black and white, and why no dialogue?

- a. *I wanted to emulate the films of the 1900s. I had watched "Frozen Time: Dawson City" by Bill Morrison, and fell in love with the aesthetic. This film connects on so many levels to that time period. Dawson City was the last in the film chain, so they wouldn't see new movies until almost a year after its release. That sounds like Kodiak, not as extreme as all that, but we still wait a while for new releases. The Gold Rush was my focus, so that filmmaking style was my muse.*

**5. Did you encounter any difficulties while making this film?**

- a. *On the first day a filming, an earthquake happened near Anchorage. We had a Tsunami warning, and we waited on high ground, hoping and praying nothing terrible was coming. Luckily, nothing did. The warning was stood down, and everyone wanted to continue with the film. Outside of that, the weather was constantly a challenge. I kept "The Revenant" in mind the entire time. There was no challenge we wouldn't be able to overcome making this movie. The worst day of weather was actually one of the last filming days, right after our first major snowfall of the year. As most Alaskans know, the weather can change overnight here... And that is exactly what it decided to do. One night, awesome snowfall. I was excited to film in it. We needed snow for this shot, and there was no exceptions. The next day, I look outside.... It's raining.... Hard. The snow was melting. We had to move fast! Luckily, I found a spot by the Kodiak Golf Course that was still packed. We completed the shot. I was the only one without snow pants, and I felt like an idiot, while my soaking wet legs felt nothing at all.*

**6. What's next for this film and beyond?**

- a. *I would like to run a crowdfunding campaign, solely for experience. Once that is completed, I will be submitting this film to festivals, and ultimately air it online with short film distribution websites. It should be online sometime around August to October 2019. For the future, I will continue making short films until I retire from the military and have the ability to dedicate myself to a film college. My next short film is going to be a mashup of 60's to 80's science fiction tropes wrapped around an interesting story. I am planning on using kit bashed ship models and custom made phasers similar to the ones used in the old Buck Rogers series. It should be interesting finding a way to combine retro-science fiction into a smooth modern style story. Should be really fun and interesting.*

## Social and Media Links

1. IMDB: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9466076/?ref=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9466076/?ref=fn_al_tt_1)
2. Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/kushtakafilm>
3. Teaser Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/322096618>
4. Fundraiser: [https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/kushtaka-short-horror-film/coming\\_soon/x/14490331?fbclid=IwAR1eS0kIKP79EKUAFQWVGJ3oVXxcigpmuDCLc\\_o-bYZmA5wzI7ZWaLhrtkek](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/kushtaka-short-horror-film/coming_soon/x/14490331?fbclid=IwAR1eS0kIKP79EKUAFQWVGJ3oVXxcigpmuDCLc_o-bYZmA5wzI7ZWaLhrtkek)
5. Review articles and news:
  - [Indieshortsmag.com](http://Indieshortsmag.com)
  - [UK Film Review](#)