

# THE SIBERIAN EXCHANGE

An Action-Thriller Written By

Deb and Neal Havener

2011 People's Choice Award Winners

2010 Nicholl Fellowship Semi-finalists

2009 Nicholl Fellowship Semi-finalists

Would you kill  
the last  
of an endangered species ...



The tiger in this picture has not been harmed. It has been tagged by officials for monitoring the tiger population.

... for money ?



What if you sold the pelt on the black market to the  
Russian Mafia, but the deal went horribly wrong  
and they put a price on your head ...



... and your entire family?





What if you were forced to flee from the Mafia  
into the unforgiving terrain of Siberia?



The wind chill is 90 degrees below zero ...

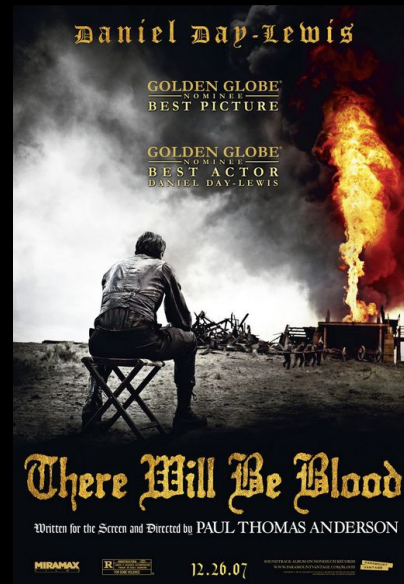
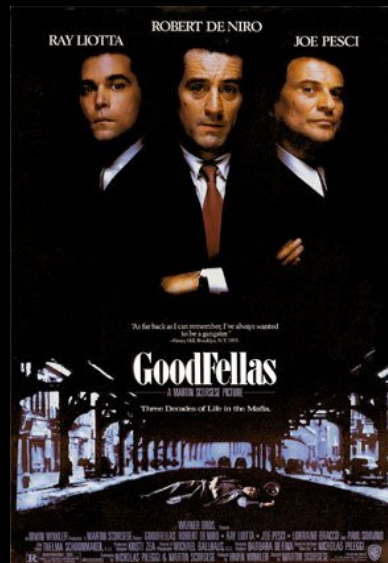
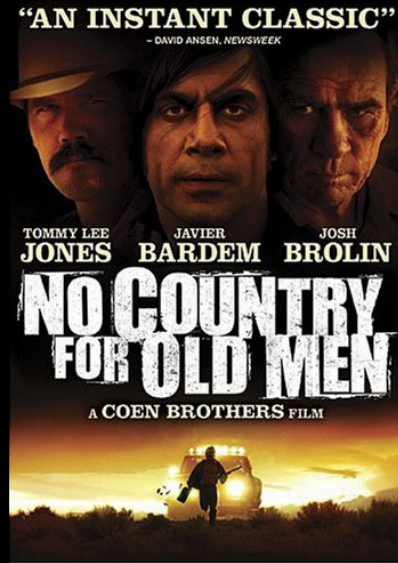


... and every man  
must find the heart of a hunter  
to survive.



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## Comparable Movies



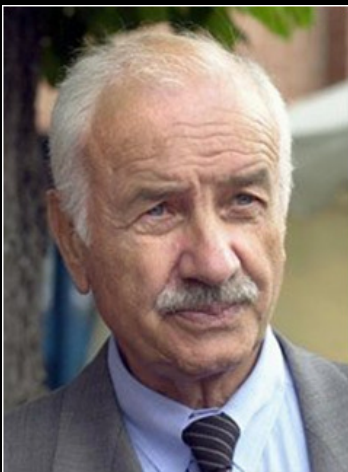


**Ben Bela Boehm**  
Angels and Demons  
Interest (role of "Gavril")

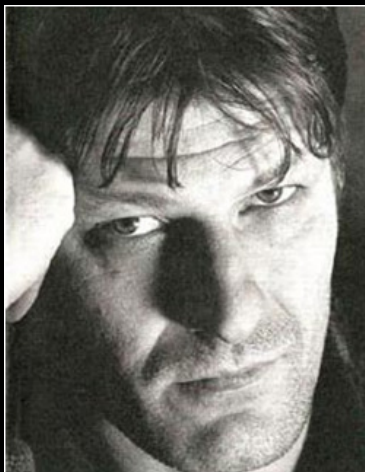


**Nolan Gerard Funk**  
Nickelodeon's *Spectacular!*,  
upcoming films *House at the End  
of the Street*, Marc Platt's *Evidence*  
The Gersh Agency  
Interest (role of "Peter")

Other casting ideas:



**Armin Mueller-Stahl**



**Sean Bean**



**Steve Buscemi**



Written by

**Deb and Neal Havener**

Nicholl Fellowship semi-finalists (2009, 2010),

Write Movies Int'l finalists (2010)

People's Choice Award winner Best Movie Pitch (2011)

Award-winning writers of  
*The Lodge, Midnight Swing*  
*The Dragonlore Trilogy, Raining Cats*  
and *Happy Endings*

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## SYNOPSIS:

April, 1993 -- The former Soviet Union slowly lurches towards democracy.

A noisy crowd of environmental activists – mostly young, and mostly drunk – wait for **FYODOR ZHEMLAKOV**, the leader of their movement, at a train station near Moscow. Just a few years earlier, the KGB would have arrested them all, and sent Zhemlakov to a Gulag. Now, there is hope.

But, moments after he arrives at the station, Zhemlakov is gunned down in cold blood.

His assassin – **GAVRIL** – barely escapes, and is sent by the head of the Moscow Mafia to lay low until things quiet down.

Impetuous and headstrong, **PETER VLADMIROVICH**, 21, dreams of escaping this factory village, where clouds of smog destroy the once beautiful land. Unable to find work, he scavenges through trash for food and items to sell. He skims drugs from the son of the local mob boss ... who is host to the assassin Gavril.

To help his family survive, Peter's grandfather – **MISHKA** – scours the countryside for rabbit and other small game. Out on such an expedition, he is amazed to come across huge footprints in the snow – footprints of a Siberian Tiger, thought long ago to have vanished from the region.

Mishka tells Peter's father, **ANDREI**, about the footprints. Andrei, aware of the small fortune (fifty thousand US dollars) that the pelt could bring, talks the reluctant Mishka into tracking the tiger down. The three generations of men - Mishka, Andrei, and Peter, set out to find their fortune in the tiger pelt. At the last minute, Mishka has a change of heart, but Peter, hopped up on cocaine, fires wildly, injuring the tiger. It attacks Andrei, and Mishka is forced to kill it.

Although Andrei is badly mauled, the family fears that bringing a doctor will get them thrown in jail – as well as lose them the pelt. Peter convinces Mishka to go with him to the pawn shop, where the Mafia fences stolen goods.

**SERGEI ALEXOVICH** is even more corrupt than his father, the head of the local mafia. He offers Peter a mere fifty dollars – and his life – for the pelt. In exchange, he won't turn Peter's family in for killing an endangered animal. As Peter and Mishka storm out of the pawn shop, Sergei grabs Mishka to force the deal. Tempers flare. A gun is drawn, and Sergei is killed.

Now Peter and his family, pursued by the relentless assassin Gavril and the local mob, must leave everything they know behind them. They flee into the vast Siberian wilderness, where every man must find the heart of a hunter to survive.



## **CONTACT**

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“Because the heart beats under a covering of hair, of fur, feathers, or wings, it is, for that reason, to be of no account?” - Jean Paul Richter



“Lions, tigers, big cats may face extinction in 20 years.”  
- Dan Vergano, USA Today, 10-28-11

“No more than 400 of the species live in the world, most of which (are) in Russia ...”  
- Leonardo DiCaprio and the Save Tigers Now Fund  
(Save Tigers Now is a global campaign by  
World Wildlife Fund and Leonardo DiCaprio.)

“We have failed miserably. Although the tiger has been prized throughout history ... it is now literally on the verge of extinction.” - Willem Wijnstekers, the secretary general of the 175-nation Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species, 3-15-10

The writers of The Siberian Exchange proudly support the World Wildlife Fund and other organizations for their efforts to save endangered animals. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this screenplay will be donated to appropriate foundations to help save the tiger.