

SKY PATH

Feature film, 90 minutes

Genre: Drama, Thriller, Survival

Cast: Dmitry Chebotaryov, Ivan Mulin, Alena Mitroshina, Oleg Chugunov, Alina Bolozneva

Director: Sergey Pikalov

Screenplay: Victoria Bezrukova

Plot

A tense survival thriller about climbers caught in an avalanche, forcing them to find a way to escape. The story of people whom the mountains test breaking and healing them — a tale about the price of fear, redemption, and the power of human choice.

Synopsis

Four friends and mountaineers — PARKER (30), ANDREW (30), EMMA (28), and NICK (30) — are on a training climb. Andrew is the group's leader, and there is obvious mutual attraction between him and Emma. When Nick, having climbed higher than everyone else, slips, the entire belay system is put in danger. To save his friend, Andrew needs to disconnect from the safety rope, but he doesn't have time. Seconds of delay cost Nick his life.

Two years pass. Andrew is living reclusively in a cabin by the river, avoiding people and mountains. He is visited by his younger brother, JOSH (20), who plans to propose to his girlfriend MARY (20). The brothers go to an alpinism club, where Andrew reunites with Parker and Emma who are now dating. Parker suggests a joint ascent to the abandoned observation deck called "Sky Path." It's a surprise for Mary — Josh plans to propose to her high in the mountains at the viewpoint. Andrew is hesitant but agrees for his brother's sake.

The road to the mountains begins carefree. Everyone has packed light; only Andrew has brought full mountaineering gear. He tries to instruct the beginner climbers, Josh and Mary, about safety during the ascent but Parker mocks him: they are only taking a light walk. Andrew notices Josh has brought chocolate bars and criticizes his lack of preparation — at high altitude, the chocolate will freeze like a stone, and teeth could break.

The guys are traveling in Parker's jeep towards the mountains. On a mountain switchback, Parker suddenly swerves abruptly to the side, barely noticing the rocks ahead after a recent landslide. The jeep skids and blows a tire. There's no spare, so they decide to continue on foot. Parker suggests a shortcut.

The route they promised turns out to be dangerous, and the group starts climbing a steep slope. Mary nearly slips and begins to feel nervous. Andrew helps her overcome her fear.

After a tiring climb, they reach an old cable car, which Andrew starts manually thanks to his mechanical skills gained over the past three years. The rusty cabin of the lift carries them upward to the summit.

At the top, the friends find an abandoned observation platform made of glass and metal, hanging over a chasm. A faded, rusted sign reads "Sky Path." Josh proposes to Mary, kneeling down to do so. But Mary hesitates, muttering that they are only twenty years old and it's too early for marriage. Josh becomes confused, and everyone feels awkward. Parker saves the moment by suggesting they take a group photo. He climbs higher, the ice beneath him cracks, and the platform trembles. The structures lean, and the friends barely manage to run to the safe side.

When they return to the cable car, the rusty cabin suddenly detaches and falls down. The crash triggers an avalanche. The guys run but the snow cloud overtakes them.

They wake up under the snow; Andrew, Emma and Josh find themselves trapped in an icy snare. Josh is injured—an ice fragment from the observation platform is lodged in his leg.

They manage to escape and find Mary buried under the snow. She shows no signs of life. Andrew and Emma perform CPR, and after a few tense moments, Mary finally takes a convulsive breath.

The guys discuss how to get out. The way back is blocked, and their phones have no signal. Andrew suggests waiting for rescue, but it turns out that Parker didn't register their route — no one knows where they are. So, Andrew takes charge and decides to lead everyone to the weather station at the summit, marked on the map. It should be warm there, and there's a connection; from there, they can call for help.

The ascent becomes a test. Josh grows weaker, and the weather worsens. A gusty wind kicks up a snowstorm, reducing visibility. Parker, walking with Mary, stumbles and they both slide down the steep slope, heading straight toward the precipice. Andrew rushes after them but finds only Parker holding a piece of rope. He says that Mary has slipped away.

Josh's condition is worsening; he is in a semi-delirious state. They decide not to tell him about Mary's death. Andrew assesses the situation: they won't make it to the weather station before dark. He suggests they spend the night in the forest marked nearby on the map.

On the way to the forest, Emma falls through the ice. Andrew pulls her out, but Emma's clothes are soaked, and she is at risk of hypothermia. The group is caught in a snowstorm and doesn't know where to find shelter. The situation seems hopeless. Suddenly, they all hear a loud shout. Mary is calling them from a rocky ledge. She has miraculously survived and managed to find a cave in the rocks.

They decide to stay in the cave for the night and build a fire. Emma manages to warm up, and Josh regains consciousness. Mary explains how she survived: she fell onto a flat ledge, and her harness was intact. She didn't know where to find the others and could barely move but forced herself to keep going. In the forest, she managed to start a fire using a survival method from a video about extreme conditions. Saving a candy wrapper from a chocolate bar, Mary used foil to connect the contacts of a camera battery. To light dry branches, she burned Polaroid photos of her friends taken at the viewpoint. Mary blames Parker saying he unbuckled the safety clip when they fell. Because of him, she slipped and almost died. Josh loses control and yells at Parker, while Andrew nearly hits him but is restrained by Emma.

The next morning, they decide that the injured Josh will stay in the cave with Mary, while the other three head to the weather station. The final climb is very difficult. Parker begins to lose strength, screams hysterically for them to give him the ice axe, and then attacks Andrew. They struggle, arguing simultaneously, and Parker admits that two years ago, he unhooked from Nick in the double safety system. Parker was only thinking of himself, and he considered this not cowardice but survival. Parker tries to take the ice axe away from Andrew; during the fight, Andrew pushes him away. Parker slips down the slope and falls into the abyss.

Andrew and Emma reach the weather station. But it turns out to be abandoned; there's no electricity, and their phones are dead. Andrew collapses from exhaustion but notices a solar panel. Emma climbs up the tower, angles the panel toward the sun. The phone starts charging,

and she manages to call rescue services. When Emma descends, Andrew is barely breathing. From afar, they hear the helicopter of the rescue service.

Later, at the mountaineering club, Mary hangs the only surviving photo on the wall — the picture where all five friends are together. Mary and Josh rehearse their wedding dance.

Andrew, in his cabin by the river, is clearing snow off the roof. Emma arrives and climbs up to him. They kiss, standing on the roof with the majestic mountain landscape in the background.