

OUT OF THE MYST
A Romantic Mystery/Comedy
Adapted from the novel *Cabin Fever* by William Sullivan

Bill and Janell's marriage is in trouble. They love each other, but their workaholic schedules (he writes hiking guides; she's an illustrator) keep them from having a life together. To save their marriage, they decide to spend the summer building a log cabin from scratch on land Bill's parents own near the Oregon coast. How hard can it be? Bill once saw it done on TV.

At first, Janell is amused by their quirky rural neighbors, but her attitude changes when she learns that the former landowner, Moreland, committed suicide... however, the locals are convinced he was murdered, and then an intimidating black man claiming to be Native American insists that the Skookum Sisters, powerful spirits who protect their tribal land, were responsible.

Bill and Janell's plans are quickly disrupted when Bill cuts his toe while felling the first tree. He claims he was distracted by a nude Indian girl running through the forest. This is just the first of several mystifying events that prevent the cabin construction. Are the "shape-shifting" Skookums responsible? Janell encourages Bill to begin another "together" project during his recovery: writing his long-delayed novel: Moreland's death and the cast of weird neighbors make an excellent story-line. While Bill writes, Janell turns to sleuthing.

Bill and Janell soon discover that each neighbor did indeed have a strong motive for killing Moreland, however they can't agree on the prime suspect. Bill imagines individual scenarios for his novel and writes humorous and often bizarre scenes (visually shown as fantasies), but his reluctance to share his writing infuriates Janell. Their conflicts force them to confront the deeper issues that threaten their marriage.

Completing the cabin helps Bill and Janell develop a better understanding of each other and how to work together. It even helps them solve the mystery of Moreland's death... until a neighbor discloses some remarkable new information that creates a perfect surprise ending.