



Juan Henriquez leading the runnel of thin ice on P1 with the dagger of P4 high above. Photo: Raphael Slawinski

BAD ROMANCE

Grade: M7 WI4, 130m

Location: North Ghost, Don Getty Wildland Provincial Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2350m, North facing

First Ascent: Juan Henriquez, Raphael Slawinski, February 21 2016

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from Raph's article in the CAJ and his blog. For more info, check out the blog here: <https://raphaelslawinski.blogspot.com/2016/02/romancing-ghost.html> -NB

"... Higher in the alpine cirque discontinuous ice lines beckoned. Over the next few weeks a few friends and I explored the valley's potential: soaking our feet after breaking through creek ice, tiptoeing gingerly across drum-tight snow slopes, having our eyes welded shut by blistering spindrift, falling out of control when a tool placement ripped. But all the while, we could not think of too many other places we would rather be"

Approach

Drive into the North Ghost and park as for *Going To The Sun Highway* (51.3200°N, -115.2692°E).

Start as for *GTTSH*, but instead of turning into its side drainage on the right, continue up the main drainage. Hike up the creek and at its head head up and right on scree slopes to a rock band directly below the route (the right one of two major ice lines). Scramble directly through the rock band; snow ledges on the right are steep, unsupported and avalanche-prone. 2 hours.



P1: WI3R 30m

Climb a thin flow of low-angled ice to a snow ledge. Belay on ice at a short curtain. There usually isn't much gear to be had but the climbing isn't hard.

P2: WI3 40m

Climb the curtain to a fun narrow runnel, then where it widens into a broad shield climb up and right to where the ice runs out below a roof. A couple of dry moves gain a 2-bolt anchor. This pitch protects well with screws but there are also some wire and cam placements on the left wall.

P3: M7 WI4 60m

Climb bolt-protected rock with the occasional small ice blob to a hanging curtain. The first few moves from the belay are the crux, but the climbing quickly eases. Once on the ice, climb up to where it ends in an overlap. Belay off screws.

Descent

Rappel the route. Rather than swinging into the top of P2, it may be easier to make a v-thread above the hanging curtain partway up P3.

Rack

Cams #0.4-0.5, nuts. Screws (incl stubbies), single/tag or half ropes.

Editor's Note

- Sebastian Taborszky and Paul Taylor assisted with putting up this route but were not on the FA party.

