

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DUSK

Handcuffs close around Bobby Satchel's wrists, binding his arms behind his back. Mathers hands him over to two AIR SUPPORT TROOPERS (they came with the helicopter).

MATHERS

Take him back to Tok. I'll be there as soon as I finish up here.

BOBBY

I'm not talking to anyone until I get a lawyer.

MATHERS

Great. Should be a nice quiet ride for you boys.

As the Troopers lead Bobby away, Mathers heads back to the crime scene, where Van Der Kamp is finishing up photographing the body and surrounding area.

VAN DER KAMP

I've got all four sides. Near, medium and far. High and low angle. I used my badge as an index for size on the close-ups.

He hands over three rolls of film. A beat. Van Der Kamp is almost embarrassed to ask:

VAN DER KAMP (cont'd)

Lieutenant...

MATHERS

Why do I think this is a murder?

VAN DER KAMP

Pretty much.

MATHERS

Come here.

The men kneel down next to Glenn Satchel's body, which hasn't been moved at all.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Bobby said his brother fell on a rock. You got a head wound, could be from a rock. But I don't see any likely candidates around here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAN DER KAMP

He said they walked a while.

MATHERS

Yeah, with one broken leg. You got a splint down here. Compound fracture, bone sticking through the skin. But where's the blood?

VAN DER KAMP

There's a little.

MATHERS

Just what gravity pulled out. His heart had already stopped when the leg got broken.

Van Der Kamp considers the implication. Mathers stands.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Now look around. You've got two forty-pound backpacks leaning against that tree...

VAN DER KAMP

(realizing)

Glenn couldn't carry his with a concussion and a broken leg. Maybe Bobby carried both of them?

MATHERS

You're as strong as he is. Could you do that?

VAN DER KAMP

No.

MATHERS

You also got ashes from a campfire. Bobby says he stayed here from dusk until dawn. But there aren't enough ashes here for a 20-minute fire.

VAN DER KAMP

He set it up to match his story.

MATHERS

Or created a story to cover what happened. All that's true is that a rock killed his brother. Bobby should know. He was holding it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Van Der Kamp looks around, humbled but still excited.

VAN DER KAMP  
When do we move the body?

MATHERS  
We don't. Paul Vico is coming up  
out of Anchorage.

VAN DER KAMP  
Vico himself?

MATHERS  
He'll be here first light. Only  
problem is, all this pretty yellow  
tape isn't going to do much to  
frighten off a bear with a  
hankering.

VAN DER KAMP  
Do you want me to stay? I can  
stay. I can guard the scene.

That was certainly Mathers's plan.

MATHERS  
No campfire. We can't risk  
contaminating...

VAN DER KAMP  
I'm fine. I can sleep on a  
glacier. Seriously, I'm good.

MATHERS  
Why do I get the feeling you're  
not entirely satisfied with fish  
and wildlife division?

Van Der Kamp smiles.

MATHERS (cont'd)  
See you in the morning.

[END OF SCENE]

INT. TRUCK [DRIVING] - DAY

It's two hours later and they're still not there.

HARPER

I can't believe I used to complain  
about a 45-minute commute.

Mathers smiles to himself. He has his hands on the top of the steering wheel. His WEDDING RING catches the light. If we haven't seen it before, we definitely do now.

HARPER (cont'd)

Prescott was saying that Alaska is  
bigger than Texas and California  
combined.

MATHERS

And Montana. All three.  
(beat)  
You don't like it.

HARPER

It's a completely different  
country that happens to have the  
same flag. The people are nice,  
if sometimes a little odd.

MATHERS

Odd?

HARPER

I'm going to say odd. Theories?

MATHERS

Well, either you grow up here, and  
you're "odd" because of that, or  
you can't fit anywhere else, so  
you end up here by default.

HARPER

Which one are you?

MATHERS

I grew up here.

HARPER

What about your wife?

Half a beat. Mathers's relatively cheerful tone dissipates.

MATHERS

St. Louis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARPER

She must really love you. I know  
I couldn't live this far out. I  
mean, I'm in Anchorage and I'm  
still looking for a Starbucks.

MATHERS

What's a Starbucks?

HARPER

You're serious.  
(he is)  
They sell coffee.

MATHERS

Lots of places sell coffee.

HARPER

It different. It's...  
(she can't explain)  
It's just different, and I'm still  
getting used to it.