EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DUSK

Handcuffs close around Bobby Satchel’s wrists, binding his arms behind his back. Maters 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, Maters 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)
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)
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)
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.

MATHERS
What’s a Starbucks?

HARPER
You’re serious.

MATHERS
Lots of places sell coffee.

HARPER
It’s different. It’s...

MATHERS
Lots of places sell coffee.

HARPER
It’s different. It’s...

MATHERS
Lots of places sell coffee.

HARPER
It’s just different, and I’m still getting used to it.