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EXT. RESCUE STAGING AREA - DAY

Two pickup trucks ROAR past, revealing State Trooper DARRYL VAN DER KAMP (23) as he finishes a Nextel call. Just a year out of the academy, he has a boyish enthusiasm that shows through even when he's trying to be commanding.

He calls out to the MEN who climb out of the trucks, along with their DOGS:

VAN DER KAMP
Need you to sign in over there.
Grab a walkie and a vest.

"Over there" is a folding table next to Van Der Kamp's truck, where a VOLUNTEER is handing out equipment to the growing search party -- FIFTEEN LOCAL MEN and counting.

Hearing a HORN, Van Der Kamp turns to see a State Trooper truck pull in. Van Der Kamp walks over to meet up with Lieutenant RAY MATHERS (40's).

VAN DER KAMP (cont'd)
Lieutenant.

MATHERS
What have we got?

Both Mathers and Van Der Kamp are Troopers, but different kinds. Van Der Kamp wears the green uniform of the fish-and-wildlife division, while Mathers is law enforcement. If Mathers ever wore his uniform, it would be blue.

The men walk together.

VAN DER KAMP
Two brothers, Glenn and Bobby Satchel. They work for a backwoods tour company out of Delta Junction. They were scouting out a new route when the older brother, Glenn, fell and cracked his skull. Couldn't walk. Younger brother stayed with him overnight, then hiked out this morning to get help.

MATHERS
Where's the chopper?

VAN DER KAMP
Grounded. We're trying to pull one out of Fairbanks.

MATHERS

Alright. We've got maybe three hours of daylight. Get on the phone to the Mounties in Dawson. We're going to need them if this crosses over the border. Then break the men into four-man teams. We'll off-road as far as we can, then go in on foot.

VAN DER KAMP

Understood.

MATHERS

Where's the brother?

[END OF SCENE]

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DUSK

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. I used my badge as
an index for size on the close-ups.

He hands over three rolls of film. 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.

MATHERS (cont'd)
Bobby said his brother fell on a
rock. You got a head wound, could
be from a rock. But it's not from
around here -- he said they walked
a while.

VAN DER KAMP
On a broken leg.

MATHERS
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 sixty-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

Two backpacks and his brother. 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. That's ten hours. 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.

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 -- but he's glad to see Van
Der Kamp taking the initiative.

MATHERS

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

Van Der Kamp smiles.

MATHERS (cont'd)

See you in the morning.
(MORE)