

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Mathers leads PAUL VICO (48) out of the chopper.

Vico is the Chief Forensic Examiner for the State of Alaska, sort of an über-Quincy. A gregarious bear of a man, his sloppy appearance belies an obsessive streak that can manifest as impatience, anger or arrogance. He seems to have no barometer for when he's pissing people off.

Mathers and Vico have known each other for years. They're friendly colleagues, not to be mistaken as friends. They don't chat. They don't send Christmas cards.

Walking away from the chopper...

VICO

They're not going to stop asking until you take the job.

MATHERS

I don't want to live in the city.

VICO

Paris is a city. New York is a city. Anchorage is a hundred thousand people huddled together for warmth.

(beat)

Besides, you wouldn't be in Anchorage that much. People get killed all over this state. You get to make house calls.

MATHERS

I thought you were the doctor.

[END OF SCENE]

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Mathers, Vico, Harper and Prescott stand together in the hallway, reviewing what's been learned.

VICO
Glenn Satchel was castrated.

PRESCOTT
Literally or figuratively?

VICO
Both testicles removed, along with
the vas deferens and glands.

MATHERS
How recently?

VICO
Years ago. The incision is
completely sealed over. Scrotum
retracted.

HARPER
(to Mathers)
Didn't you say his wife was
pregnant?

Mathers nods.

VICO
Unless Glenn's got his jizz on ice
somewhere, it's not by him.

PRESCOTT
Show of hands, everyone who thinks
the real father is Bobby Satchel?

MATHERS
The wife was definitely hiding
something.

HARPER
Like an affair.

VICO
Amniocentesis could tell you 100%.

HARPER
We can't force prenatal testing.

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PRESCOTT

We don't need to. Glenn Satchel was a eunuch. He knew he couldn't have kids. Suddenly his wife is pregnant. He confronts the man he suspects knocked her up. Fight ensues, then a rock to the head.

(to Harper)

You can sell that to a jury, can't you?

HARPER

If we have enough forensic to back it up.

VICO

Wouldn't count on it. Moving the bodies contaminated everything.

MATHERS

What about Van Der Kamp?

VICO

Kid took two shots in the back. Based on the damage, I'd say a rifle, but they cut out the slugs.

MATHERS

Like a hunter. I'll start with the father. I want to search his place first thing.

HARPER

I'll have a warrant waiting for you.

PRESCOTT

(to Harper)

When is Bobby's arraignment?

HARPER

Four o'clock. I need to go.

PRESCOTT

Do whatever it takes. I don't want that kid seeing daylight.

HARPER

Understood.

With a nod to the others, Harper heads off down the hall. The men stay behind for a beat, until Harper is out of earshot.

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PRESCOTT

She's young, but she's good.
We're lucky to have her.

VICO

If you say so.

PRESCOTT

Van Der Kamp is the priority, no
question. No one gets away with
shooting a Trooper.

MATHERS

His parents live in Fairbanks.
I'll stop by on my way.

PRESCOTT

Tell them we're going to find the
son of a bitch who did this. Then
we're going to bury him in a hole
so deep they'll strike oil twice
just digging it.