

ALASKA

"Frozen"
Pilot

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ALASKA

"FROZEN" PILOT

TEASER

1 **EXT. GLACIER - DAY**

1

A group of YOUNG CLIMBERS work their way up a glacier. They are outfitted with parkas, helmets, goggles, pulleys, climbing axes, and ropes. Wind howls. It's a tough climb, but they have it under control. The experienced CLIMBING LEADER is out ahead of them. He pulls himself up to onto the top of the glacier. Crouched down, he hammers the final pulley into place then looks down at the rest of the group.

CLIMBING LEADER

Ladies, we don't have all day.

CLIMBER

We're in no rush, man.

CLIMBING LEADER

My grandma climbs faster than you.

The group of Young Climbers laugh. The Climbing Leader stands up straight and brushes the snow off his jacket and pants. He peels off his goggles. Towering mountains and glaciers surround him. He takes in the view.

Then, he looks down at his feet and gasps. A dead climber lies beneath the ice. His eyes are frozen open and he stares up at the Climbing Leader, who lets out a blood-curdling SCREAM.

2 **INT. VICO'S LAB - DAY**

2

MATHERS walks over to VICO who is examining the body which still has an ax embedded in its head.

MATHERS

What do you think we're looking at here VICO?

VICO

It's hard to say. I mean the angle of the ax here is a bit unusual...

Vico trails off while he continues examining the body, particularly the ax head

MATHERS

These climber-types are always getting themselves into dangerous situations. A windy day on a tough climb, and he could have impaled himself on his own ax.

Mathers moves to stand by Vico's other shoulder as Vico continues examining the body.

MATHERS (cont'd)

But the odd thing is though, there's been no recent reports of missing climbers.

Vico looks up.

VICO

That's because this body's been frozen for twenty years.

SMASH CUT TO:

ACT ONE

3 **INT. VICO'S LAB - DAY**

3

Vico and Mathers stand on opposite sides of a examination table with the dead man's now fully-thawed body face-up. Vico is wearing gloves, a mask, eye goggles, and a blue plastic clothes-covering. Mathers is in jeans a t-shirt holding a pen and notebook.

VICO

Well, he was certainly a climber. Hearty boots, gloves to match, and multiple layers of jackets and pants. Not too bad o'shape for a guy dead 20 years.

MATHERS

Now, correct me if I am wrong, but he seems about 6 foot one, brown hair, blue eyes?

VICO

Look at you all involved. He your type or somethin'?

MATHERS

This is a serious matter, so excuse me for trying to be helpful.

VICO

You're right though about his appearance. Looks about 40. Young dude with big dreams of climbing Denali. And he's got a pretty sweet climbing ax. Not that crap they're selling these days.

Mathers listens closely, jotting down Vico's words before taking several images of the body, wrinkling her face in discomfort as she does so.

MATHERS

So? Any thoughts as to who this guy this?

VICO

Beats me. That ax is unique enough for an expert to identify an entire person based on it alone. Try Talkeetna.

Mathers nods and hurries out to inform the rest of the team. Vico begins to take off his gear and pop open a can of Pepsi.

4 **INT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - DAY**

4

Ten middle-schoolers bicker about who's to go up the climbing wall first as YODI SANDERS, a lanky stoner, resets the pulleys. He picks up a harness with one hand and as he waits for the kids to notice him, he glances at the poster of him and his 3 best friends from back in the day.

MIDDLE-SCHOOL KID

Is it true?! Are you that guy in the poster who made it to the top of Mt. McKinley?

MATHERS walks in slowly through the electric doors of the mountaineering store. Icy cold wind gushes through. YODI turns towards the entrance. He's seen that woman on the newspaper before, and it's never good news.

MATHERS turns towards the student chatter and spots YODI. She walks towards him, slowly, analyzing the rest of the store on her way.

MATHERS

I'm looking for Yodi Sanders

YODI

That would be me, ma'am. You should know, we have signed liability waivers on all of our rentals.

MATHERS

Yea well, that's a requirement Mr. Sanders

YODI

Yodi, just Yodi

MATHERS

Anyways, I'm here in regards to something that occurred twenty years ago.

Mathers turns towards the poster of the 4 friends atop Mt. McKinley.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Is that Paul Eriksen?

Yodi nods melancholically. Mathers walks up to the poster. Yodi follows nervously.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Do you remember the last day you saw him?

YODI

I try not to. He was my best friend. The reason I started climbing. And the reason I'm still climbing. And he's not here anymore.

MATHERS

Well, we found his body Yodi.

YODI

(shocked)

Woah, I never thought he'd show up

MATHERS

Anything you can remember from that day will help us find out what happened.

YODI

That must not have been a pretty sight.

MATHERS

Why do you say that?

YODI

Not that Paul was not a good looking man, trust me, he was. And like sourdoughs do, he'd get all the pretty girls. But I can't imagine what his face looks like since that day. We were climbing down the Denali when an awful storm, and I mean awful, I've seen plenty Miss Mathers...

YODI spaces out for a second.

YODI (cont'd)

Sorry. Oh the storm! The snow was so thick we couldn't see 2 feet ahead and we were already at Talken Peak so there was no way back. We had to rappel down blind. God knows why but Paul offered to hold us and come down last. By the time Brett was coming down, the rope let loose. I think that's what happened...

Beat.

YODI (cont'd)

Anyway, he fell a little less than a foot from where Leah and I were standing. Paul must have fallen from Talken Peak or gotten stuck without a rope. I don't know. I don't want to know. We wanted to wait but Brett hurt his ankle coming down, we had to hurry to base camp before the pain really hit cause no way Leah and I could've carried him the rest of the way.

MATHERS

(looking at poster)

I'm guessing Brett and Leah are the other two? What ever happened to them?

Off Yodi's look.

5 **EXT. CAMPGROUND, TALKEETNA - DAY**

5

The camera surveys what appears to have been a recently bustling long-term campground, but currently empty of action. Motorhomes with welcome signs, national park stickers, and recently covered fire pits are all around. LEAH RODRIGUEZ sits outside the most worn down and stickered-up motorhome in a camping chair with a beer in the cup-holder and a ukulele in hand, clearly having been playing bits and pieces of songs for a while.

Mathers glances at a copy of the photo and clears her throat in anticipation...

MATHERS

Leah Rodriguez?

LEAH

Depends on who's askin'. There trouble or can I interest you in an beer?

Mathers flips her badge to Leah with the slightest hint of a warm smile.

MATHERS

Afraid this job doesn't call for drinking on duty.

Gauging Leah's reaction...

MATHERS (cont'd)

Ms. Rodriguez, I'm here to ask you some questions about the death of your friend, Paul Eriksen.

Leah whistles and looks around.

LEAH

I thought those poor kids might have come face-to-face with him. They came bangin' on my door last night thinking it was an omen warding them off of climbing.

Leah sighs, the wears of pulling an all-nighter now apparent.

LEAH (cont'd)

Paul was the key in our four amigos. Always dealt with our shit, all until it caught up to him, became more than he could handle.

(MORE)

LEAH (cont'd)

At least he's with the mountain
that he loved so much.

A group of close-knit 20-something climbers come out of Leah's motorhome. One comes up to them, CLIMBER KID #1, gives a friendly bump on the shoulder of Leah and plucks a ukulele string.

CLIMBER KID #1

Ey Lee, off tellin' folks about
McKinley again? How bout stretching
those old legend legs of yours and
climbing a face with us?

Leah gives a squeeze to Climber Kid #1's shoulder, shakes her head no, and keeps talking to Mathers.

LEAH

He made sure we came home that day,
the rest of us gettin to claim the
ascent.

MATHERS

Paul's not resting in the mountains
anymore, nor has he been. Ms.
Rodriguez, is there anything you
could tell me that would suggest
hostility between Paul and anyone
in your group?

Leah whispers to the climber kids and they disperse.

LEAH

Look, I hear what you're implying.
But day of, we got hit by that shit
storm. Weather prediction only goes
so far and some fucked-up accidents
happen.

Leah becomes emotionally distressed, even after 20 years.

LEAH (cont'd)

This ain't the first time and it
sure as hell won't...

Mathers interrupts

MATHERS

Ms. Rodriguez, I understand I'm
opening old wounds here. But as
this is such an old case, there is
only so much I can go on.

(MORE)

MATHERS (cont'd)

I don't know what those kids told you or how much they saw, but it wasn't just weather and a bad fall that killed your friend.

LEAH

How do you mean?

MATHERS

Had a climbing axe stuck in him. And not right next to his belt either.

Leah's eyes widen. Mathers is unsure if this is due to surprise or shock.

LEAH

Well fuck. Where?

Clearly not needing the answer, Leah continues.

LEAH (cont'd)

I mean I'm not trying to start shit now, we were all inseparable. But you know how spending so much time around each other can go. We had spats all the time. But the night before, him and Yodi really got into one. Almost thought we wouldn't climb the next day.

Leah plucks another ukulele string as she takes a swig of her beer. She lifts it as a signal to Mathers and says

LEAH (cont'd)

They were probably both too drunk and pissed about nothing important. Clearly didn't stop us from McKinley.

6 INT. VICO'S LAB - DAY

6

Camera pans up to see **CRIMINOLOGIST HARRIS**, 45, at Vico's desk, examining the ridge pattern on the ax head. The head is slightly rusted. Harris is focused, although appears somewhat agitated. Vico storms into the lab with a latte in his hand.

VICO

Holding up the fort?

HARRIS

sighs Barely.

VICO

Fucking line at that coffee shop
took forever.

Vico points toward the ax.

VICO (cont'd)

You got an ID on that ridge?

HARRIS

Not yet, this one I ain't seen
before.

VICO

scoffs Come on, It's been like 45
minutes and you haven't figured it
out yet?

Harris has officially had it. He slams his hands on the desk
and turns toward Vico.

HARRIS

See, you think it's that easy.
Maybe if you actually climbed in
your spare time you'd understand
that back then, there were about
fifty different manufacturers of
these fuckers.

Vico puts his hands up and backs off a bit.

VICO

Okay, I was just aski--

HARRIS

And if you think that's bad, about
half the climbers these days
probably make their own fucking
gear now.

VICO

Alright, I get it, I'm sorry. If
you want me to leave the room I
can.

HARRIS

No, no, you're fine, stay. It's
just... *sigh* things like these
aren't usually that hard to figure
out, but now, basic concepts like
erosion are messing with us.

Harris picks up a magnifying glass and takes a closer look at the ridge.

HARRIS (cont'd)

Whoever killed Paul knew damn well people were going to find the body, just not right away. But time was really all they needed.

VICO

You got that right.

Vico takes a sip of his latte.

7 **EXT. LOCAL BAR, TALKEETNA - DAY**

7

Two men, billionaire and North Face company CEO BRETT MAHONEY and his attorney, MARK ROSEN, are chatting as they approach the entrance of the bar.

They are greeted by ALISON HARPER and ROGER PRESCOTT who are standing by the door.

PRESCOTT

Mr. Mahoney, my name is Roger Prescott and this is my associate Alison Harper.

They reach out to shake Brett's hand as he gives them a charming smile.

BRETT

Please, call me Brett. A pleasure to meet you both. This is my attorney Mark Rosen.

Rosen formally shakes Prescott's hand, but when he shakes Harper's, there's a sense of familiarity.

BRETT (cont'd)

What can I do for you?

PRESCOTT

We wanted to ask you if you'd be willing to talk to Trooper Mathers about Paul Eriksen.

Brett puts on a look of sadness and puts a hand over his chest in hurt.

BRETT

God, Paul. He was my best friend you know? He and I built North Face from the ground up. A way to forever immortalize our grand achievement. I'm just so glad they finally found the poor bastard, so he can finally be at peace.

ROSEN

Mr. Mahoney will gladly speak to Trooper Mathers as soon as Paul is laid to rest.

BRETT

I just need my time to grieve properly, you understand.

HARPER

Of course. We are so sorry for your loss, Brett.

BRETT

Thank you. It means a lot. Truly.

Mark pulls a business card out of his pocket.

ROSEN

If you need to get in further touch with Mr. Mahoney, please do it through me. Here's my card.

He hands it to Harper and as she takes it, there is a lingering for a moment as they each offer a warm smile to the other.

Brett notices and smirks as Harper places the card in her pocket, his apparent sadness passing as he becomes cheery once more.

BRETT

Well, if you'll excuse me. I have some catching up to do with my old friends.

He walks past them into the bar as Mark gives Harper a friendly nod and goes in after him. Prescott looks over to a smiling Harper.

PRESCOTT

(teasing)

So what was that about?

Harper drops the smile and regains a more serious, professional look.

HARPER
Nothing, Prescott. Absolutely nothing.

PRESCOTT
(unconvinced)
Sure. Whatever you say, Harper.

She gives him the evil eye and starts walking as Prescott laughs a little to himself and follows.

8 **INT. LOCAL BAR, TALKEETNA - CONTINUOUS**

8

Sparsely populated bar, cold winds from outside draft in.

Three sit in silence, spaced apart from each other. Leah middle, hugging her drink. Empty glasses beside them.

Leah finishes last sip, and bowls her glass into the empty ones beside her.

LEAH
It makes no sense.

Brett maintains his gaze on his glass, sipping, composed.

LEAH (cont'd)
Who would do that?

Leah is surprised to see that both are unresponsive.

Brett gently places his glass down and notices the passing bartender.

BRETT
(smooth)
Another round of 40 year
Glenfiddich -- it was magnificent.

LEAH
Is that all you care about these
days? Expensive liquor?

BRETT
(calm)
It's not liquor, it's Scotch.

Bartender slides each a glass; Brett sniffs his like a fine wine and Yodi accepts it.

Leah immediately pushes her glass back in the direction where it came, towards Brett, who looks offended.

BRETT (cont'd)
 (remaining
 composed)
 Leah, let's not open up an old
 wound.

LEAH
 So what then -- drown it in Scotch?

YODI
 (matter-of-factly)
 That would actually sanitize it.

Leah half-seethes at Yodi. Brett feels the air between the two and hastily raises his glass.

BRETT
 Hey -- to Paul.

Yodi somewhat reluctantly meets Paul's glass. Leah seethes off into the distance.

BRETT (cont'd)
 Come on, Leah.

Leah begrudgingly reaches over for her glass to join the cheers. They all clink and take a sip.

BRETT (cont'd)
 (patronizing)
 I know this is tough -- for all of
 us.

The bartender leaves the check in front of them.

BRETT (cont'd)
 That's why I'm here to help you
 guys out.

Brett reaches out confidently for the check in front of Leah, who pounces on it and pulls it towards her.

LEAH
 We don't need your help.

YODI
 Leah, he's just trying to--

LEAH
 Why are you always on his side?

YODI
 (defensive)
 I'm not on anyone's side.

LEAH
 (getting heated)
 Even back then --

BRETT
 -- Leah...

LEAH
 -- you never liked Paul.

Brett gently drops his glass to the counter.

YODI
 Don't you dare say that.

LEAH
 Makes sense why you would never
 take his side...

Yodi throws back the rest of his Scotch, seething. Brett rises from his stool.

LEAH (cont'd)
 After what happened with him and --

Yodi shoots up out of his stool as if to move onto Leah who sports a fighting stance.

Brett, anticipating this, wedges himself between them.

BRETT
 (stern)
 Please. Guys. Let's not open up old
 wounds.

Beat.

BRETT (cont'd)
 We're here to honor a won--

Yodi slams his glass onto the counter.

BRETT (cont'd)
 (clearing throat)
 --a wonderful man.

Glaring, Yodi storms out the bar.

9 **EXT. FUNERAL, TALKEETNA - DAY**

9

A small service is being held in Paul's honor. Yodi and Leah stand near Paul's grave, mourning. Yodi has been crying and Leah is tearing up. Brett stands a few feet behind them, also mourning. Mathers is standing at a distance and is acting respectfully but clearly watching the proceedings.

Brett's PR team walks up and begins filming from a discrete distance.

Yodi notices the PR team and shoots Brett a dirty look. Brett acknowledges Yodi and waves off his PR team, who stop filming and leave. Brett looks back at yodi, but yodi still looks angry with him.

Brett shakes his head knowingly. Yodi looks like he is about to say something before Leah comfotringly puts her hand on his shoulder.

The service ends, but Yodi and Leah stay by the grave. Brett begins to walk away but Mathers stops him.

BRETT

Do you need something?

MATHERS

The investigation is ongoing and I just wanted to ask you a few questions. Is that ok?

BRETT

Fine.

MATHERS

What was going on between you and Yodi back there?

BRETT

Yodi was just upset that some of my team showed up. I should've told them not to come. After all, this was supposed to be smaller and more private than the last one.

MATHERS

Ok, What was your relationship like with Paul?

BRETT

We were good friends, we always...

Brett sniffles then pauses for a few moments

BRETT (cont'd)

Can we talk about something else
right now?

MATHERS

Sure. What was Yodi's relationship
like with Paul?

BRETT

They were friends too, but it was
different they were always at each
others' throats. Always up in arms
about, well, something.

MATHERS

What did they fight about?

BRETT

Carol mostly, I don't know the
whole story. If you want to know
more you're gonna have to ask her
yourself. She'll know way more
about it than I will.

MATHERS

Who's Carol?

BRETT

She was the fifth member of our
group.

MATHERS

There was another member on the
climb?!

BRETT

No, no, she wasn't a climber
herself she was more akin to a
groupie. She was a big reason we
did the climb. She was our muse.
but yodi just didn't get it. Anyway
she's still lives near here if you
want to speak with her.

Yodi notices Brett and Mathers talking and00 looks between
them with suspicion. Brett and Mathers both leave in opposite
directions.

10 INT. LOCAL DINER, TALKEETNA - NIGHT

10

Uncrowded diner, Harper and Rosen share a booth, relaxed. Rosen's sleeves are rolled up to his elbows. Several empty glasses between them.

ROSEN

Think about the route, the weather conditions. The gear 20 years ago!

HARPER

That doesn't preclude murder.

Rosen leans in, gesturing with his beer aloft.

ROSEN

People get hurt all the time- or worse. Accidents happen.

He takes a satisfied swig.

HARPER

(shaking head)
Murder happens, too. We have to consider every option.

HARPER (cont'd)

It's what's right.

ROSEN

(teasing)
It's what's right.

HARPER (cont'd)

Always the mind reader.

Rosen bumps his glass against Harper's. She returns the gesture.

ROSEN

I think I know your angle here.

Harper raises her eyebrows, expectant.

ROSEN (cont'd)

There's no case here. Mathers is on a wild goose chase.

HARPER

Mathers is breaking a cold case that's become very, very hot.

ROSEN

Like this isn't leverage for you. I'm sure it's just another step in your plan for attorney general.

HARPER

My job is to pursue justice for people who can no longer advocate for themselves. Not all of us can be fancy corporate attorneys.

ROSEN

Embarrassing Brett Mahoney in the process? He has deep pockets, lots of friends- they have deep pockets, too. You might not make it to attorney general.

HARPER

I don't have a choice, Mark.

ROSEN

It's friendly advice. You're wasting your time.

HARPER

Alright. This was a mistake.

She reaches for her purse and blazer, makes to stand. Rosen grabs her arm. She turns sharply towards him.

ROSEN

Ali, wait. Brett and I both care about what happened with Paul.

She looks away.

ROSEN (cont'd)

And I admire the work you're doing with Mathers.

He clutches her arm a bit higher, a bit more desperate.

ROSEN (cont'd)

And if there's anything I can do to help you...

He draws her arm in to rest his face against it.

HARPER

(teasing)

And?

They make eye contact, she's got a small smile. They laugh.

ROSEN

And- I'm sorry.

She sits down next to him. Leans in towards him- and reaches right past him to pick up a half-full glass and down it.

ROSEN (cont'd)
Did I wear you down enough?

She regards him again- pulls him in by his lapel, they kiss.

11 **EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FAIRBANKS - DAY**

11

Rayna Mathers knocks twice on the door and Carol opens it with a smile on her face, then Mathers scans her face.

CAROL
...umm Hello, how can I help you?

Carol looks confused as she waits for a response

MATHERS
Good morning Carol. I'm Rayna Mathers from the Alaska Dept. Of Public Safety. I'm here to talk to you about Paul Eriksen, may I come in?

Carol raises her brows, surprised by the mention of Paul, and widens her door to let Mathers in.

A11 **INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FAIRBANKS - DAY**

A11

Carol leads Mathers to the couch and Mathers takes a seat.

CAROL
Can I get you anything to drink?

Carol is nervous.

MATHERS
Coffee would be nice, thank you

Carol steps into the kitchen to make the coffee. When its ready, she sits across from Mathers on the couch and hands her the cup of coffee. Mathers clears her throat.

MATHERS (cont'd)
I'm here because, unfortunately Paul Eriksen's body was recently found on Mt. McKinley.

Carol is devastated. She drops her head and lets out a sharp exhale and stares down for a while

CAROL

It.. i- it's been twenty years.

Carol is shocked they found him after so many years

MATHERS

It's to my understanding that you knew Paul and the friends he climbed Denali with that day, is that right?

CAROL

Yes. Leah Rodriguez, Brett Mahoney, Paul, Yodi and I were thick as thieves back then.

Carol looks off to the side as she smiles a bit as she reminisces about the past. Then her smile fades and she brings her attention back to Mathers

CAROL (cont'd)

Back then, we hung out a lot. Always talking about climbing, we were obsessed. Man oh man did we love it.

MATHERS

Used to? As you you no longer love it?

CAROL

Ever since Paul I- ..I've just become disillusioned with climbing when Paul di- dis- ...died.

Carol is lost in thought, hurting by the death of Paul

MATHERS

What can you tell me about Paul's relationship with Yodi?

Carol shifts in her seat and clears her throat. Mathers is anxious for Carol's response

CAROL

Well, you see uhh. Yodi and I were together at the time, but Paul and I had a special ummm connection. Yodi knew, and was jealous so there was tension between them two.

Carol looks down, ashamed.

MATHERS

Mhmm, I see.

Mathers takes a few notes on her pad then sits her coffee down and stands up. Carol joins her and they walk toward the front door. Carol opens it.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Thank you Carol, enjoy the rest of your day.

Carol waves at Mathers and then closes her door.

12 **EXT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - NIGHT**

12

Three cars quickly pull up next to the store, parking haphazardly. Mathers and UNIFORMS exit, crunching through the snow. Mathers pauses, seeing the door slightly ajar.

MATHERS

Follow me.

A12 **INT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - NIGHT**

A12

Mathers and Uniforms enter the dark building, spreading out with flashlight ablaze. Mathers shines hers over the front desk, littered with fliers, receipts, unpaid bills.

UNIFORM #1

You think he bolted?

Mathers examines the bills, thinking. Maybe. But she moves on, scanning around for a light switch.

MATHERS

Yodi?

No answer.

MATHERS (cont'd)

It's Mathers. We're just here to talk.

Keeping her flashlight steady, she reaches out and feels around the wall. The wind blows the door open a little wider.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Yodi?

UNIFORM #1 walks ahead of her as her flashlight beam finally locates the light switch. She presses it and the lights slowly flicker on throughout the store.

Uniform #1 stands by the rock wall, still scanning with his flashlight. As the lights flicker on, he turns his head to notice a boot dangling next to him. He looks up and shouts in surprise.

Midway up the rock wall, Yodi dangles, strangled in his own ropes.

MATHERS (cont'd)
Get Vico on the phone.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 INT. MORGUE - DAY

13

Yodi's body lies on the autopsy table. Vico stands over his body, deep in thought as Harris walks in.

HARRIS

Hell of a case we got here boss. So what... this guy kills himself cause he thought he was about to get caught for killing the other dude in the ice?

VICO

Potentially. Or someone was trying to take him out of the picture.

HARRIS

Like one of the other climbers. But why?

VICO

I don't know...Money? Annoyance? It's just not adding up.

Vico closely examines the rope marks on Yodi's neck.

VICO (cont'd)

I mean look at these ligature marks. Not exactly conducive with being self inflicted, but then again, he was found off a rock wall.

14 INT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - DAY

14

Using PROFESSIONAL CLIMBERS on the wall, Mathers and Vico reenact Yodi's strangling death. There is a synthetic body approximately the same size as Yodi with climbing gear on. The body has a spare rope coiled and tied around the back, two loops hanging out the back.

VICO

No, no, the body has to start facing the wall, if he was climbing how would he turn around?

PROFESSIONAL CLIMBER 1

Sure Vico, but any which way we drop him, the spare rope never gets caught on the wall.

A synthetic cadaver drops to the floor with a loud thud. Vico and Mathers look up to the Professional Climbers. They avoid eye contact and start resetting the ropes for the next trial run.

MATHERS

Change of plans, set this up as if someone was climbing with him.

VICO

But that would mean -

MATHERS

Let's just run it. We've tried this two dozen times, something's gotta change.

The two Professional Climbers look at each other with some skepticism, then goes down to grab the synthetic body set up and the other starts moving equipment. Professional Climber 2 belays down next to the synthetic body and Professional Climber 1. They look down to Mathers.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Push him against the wall, in a fit of rage or lust, I don't care either way, let's see if the spare rope can get caught with sheer force.

Professional Climber 2, suspended in air, puts his foot against the a climbing rock and pushes the synthetic cadaver against the wall. The body doesn't catch and just falls to the ground.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Again.

They repeat it several times, each push from the Professional Climber growing more violent than the last. Vico grows doubtful, he takes a seat and looks back at the photos from the crime scene.

Vico looks at the photos and notices a chipped climbing rock in the background. He rummages through the pictures and finds Yodi's possible climbing steps charted, and none include that rock.

The professional Climbers get set up another time as Vico rushes to the crime scene as people work on collecting more evidence. He gets past the caution tape with his ID. Carefully he scans the floor.

Mathers watches intently as Professional Climber 2 prepares to push the synthetic body against the wall. The synthetic body gets stuck, the loop from the spare rope on its back catching a climbing rock. Professional Climber two is able to use the small bit of loose rope the synthetic body "belayed" down with to wrap it around its neck.

Vico's eyesight finds a small piece of chipped climbing rock. The spare rope slowly slips off and the synthetic body is strangled by its own rope.

15 **INT. LOCAL BAR, TALKEETNA - DAY**

15

Mathers walks into the dimly lit bar and stands at the doorway. We see Mathers's silhouette against the bright background that is the outside.

She surveys the tables for Leah. The bar has only a few occupants.

She sees Leah sitting in the corner and walks over to her.

Leah doesn't seem to notice until Mathers is very close to her. Looking up at Mathers, she is clearly drunk, perhaps from sadness, perhaps from the 2 empty pints of beer next to her, another in her hand. Her speech is slow.

LEAH

Oh. Hello.

MATHERS

Hello. I wanted to ask you a couple of questions if you didn't mind.

LEAH

Sure.

Mathers sits across from her and takes out a small notebook and a pen to take notes. The empty pints of beer are moved to make some space on the table. A heavy period of silence follows. Leah, sobering up, nervously sits up and puts her both of her hands on the table.

They both speak in hushed tones as they are in public.

LEAH (cont'd)
I assume this is about Yodi? I heard... the news.

MATHERS
Yes. I just wanted to ask a few questions.

LEAH
Of course -- before we start, I just want to say, I have nothing to do with his death.

MATHERS
Oh? Well, I didn't have any plans on accusing you here, but anyways. Do you have any idea of who it might have been? Or potentially any information even? I'm just trying to cover all my bases before I start properly investigating.

Leah softly chuckles.

LEAH
Well it's good that I'm not in any *immediate* trouble.

Leah's face immediately turns more serious.

LEAH (cont'd)
Hmm,... I've been thinking about how he was.... killed....

Leah shudders as she remembers Yodi's dead body hanging lifelessly from the wall.

LEAH (cont'd)
well, it's undeniably a climber who is an expert among experts. I guess it makes sense why you came here.

MATHERS
Yes, thank you for understanding. Do you know if anyone had ill intentions towards him at all recently? Even if just a little bit?

Leah winces at the question, looking down at her hands and fidgeting with her fingers.

LEAH

Well... I do know he was involved with.. drugs.

MATHERS

Oh? Could you specify?

Mathers starts to scribble furiously in her notebook.

LEAH

Yeah... I know he sold coke to a bunch of people -- other climbers, workers, guides, anyone who had the cash really. He said he did it so he could work a little less and climb a little more...

Tears start forming in Leah's eyes and she gets more and more emotional as she continues the story.

LEAH (cont'd)

I knew it was bad, I knew something bad would happen, something really bad. I... I told him to stop! I kept begging him to stop...

Leah starts sobbing and concern fills Mathers's eyes, both about Leah and about the other people at the bar starting to look over at the pair.

Mathers puts her hand on Leah's shoulder.

MATHERS

I'm so sorry about Yodi. Do you know of anything in particular that would've led to... such extreme measures?

Leah starts to calm down a little bit. She sniffles.

LEAH

Sorry about that.. Umm, he eventually started to sample his own stuff, owed money to the wrong people,... it just got very complicated. He's been living on borrowed time for a while..

MATHERS

Hmm... I see. So no connection to Paul then, right?

LEAH
Yeah, definitely not.

Mathers scribbles some more in her notebook.

16 **INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TALKEETNA - DAY**

16

DEA AGENT LA GAMBINA, 48, sits down opposite Mathers in a meeting room. She puts a folder on the table.

MATHERS
Thank you for coming, Agent La
Gambina.

AGENT LA GAMBINA
No problem at all.

Agent La Gambina opens the folder and slides it towards Mathers. She points to a document in the folder. Mathers looks at the document.

AGENT LA GAMBINA (cont'd)
We received a tip that Yodi was
selling cocaine, so we set up a
full sting last year. Followed him
for four days straight. No drugs.
No nothing.

Mathers quickly looks up at Agent La Gambina. Agent La Gambina shakes her head.

MATHERS
That can't be...

AGENT LA GAMBINA
Don't believe me? Take a look at
this.

Agent La Gambina hands Mathers the folder who takes it from her.

AGENT LA GAMBINA (cont'd)
It was bullshit. Yodi's clean. Good
luck with your investigation.

MATHERS
Thank you, Agent.

Agent La Gambina leaves. Mathers walks her out.

17 **INT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - DAY**

17

MATHERS walks into Yodi's back office. Takes in the room.

She notices a mountain bike and other expensive climbing gear-stuff Yodi can't afford.

Then she sees it- his laptop, left half-opened, on the corner of his desk. She cracks it open and immediately sees Yodi's stoner-ish wallpaper of a polar bear meme with red shot eyes. Classic. But Mathers is unamused- she keeps scrolling.

She starts clicking on random folders. Emails, notes, photography. She stops at "BANK STATEMENTS."

She opens the folder- it's a long list of downloaded statements. She leans in, looking closer.

She stares at account profile: "CHASE PRIVATE BANK: GOLDEN PLATINUM ACCOUNT." Mathers inhales, it's not what she was expecting from a climbing store manager.

She reads closer. Every payment is from the first of the month, and they're all \$10k. She scrolls down, realizing Yodi has been getting massive payments for years.

Mathers stares off into the corner, noticing a large bong. Maybe the DEA was wrong- maybe he is a drug dealer.

She turns back to the screen. She clicks on an individual payment, stated its from the NORTH FACE COMPANY.

Picking up her phone, she calls HARPER:

MATHERS

Something's up with Brett. Let's go to Prescott.

18 **EXT. LOCAL BAR, TALKEETNA - NIGHT**

18

Mathers and Harper make their case to Prescott to depose Brett. Brett and Paul started the company together. Brett wanted it all for himself. Killed Paul, then killed Yodi when he was going to talk.

Prescott warns them they better be REAL sure they have something or they're in deep shit. Brett is too big, too powerful. A legend in Alaska and rich AF. Brett's money elected the Governor and at least one US Senator. Suddenly, fire alarms interrupt the political geography lesson.

PRESCOTT

Okay... so, just so we're all on the same page here, umm you both do know who you're fucking with right?

MATHERS

(Attempts to interject, to no avail)

PRESCOTT

This is BrettfrickenMahoney! The guy's a living legend. Hometown hero! He's like... Alaskan Kobe Bryant for Christ's sake...

MATHERS

(cutting off
Prescott)

With all due respect, I don't give a shit how much money this guy has, even less shits about your wife, your kids, any of that. Brett's guilty. I know it and I know you know it too, but we can't do anything about it without your help.

PRESCOTT

(stops to think)

Alright... listen I here you. How about this, why don't you just... run it all back by me.

MATHERS

(under his breath)

Should try getting your head out of your ass this time.

HARPER

Look, it's simple. Brett's a fraud. Northface isn't any more his business than it is Paul's, and their whole little posse knows it. That's why he's been sending Yodi hush money all these years.

MATHERS

And that's why that bastard killed both of them. He doesn't like it when people don't follow his lead. Test his authority, and you're prey.

PRESCOTT

I see... okay.. alright, I got it.

As Fire Alarms Go off!

19 **EXT. MOUNTAINEERING STORE, TALKEETNA - NIGHT**

19

As the car approaches the street, the store engulfed in fire becomes the only thing one could see in the night. Grey smoke oozing from this orange shell of the place. The sight entrances the officers momentarily when a SHADOWY FIGURE dashes out from the back. No one notices except for MATHERS.

MATHERS

(shouting)
Stop the car!

Before the car could roll to a full stop, she jumps out and immediately runs towards the woods into which the figure disappeared. Without a flashlight, Mathers could only make out glimpses of her target in the moonlight sprinkled through the trees. Occasionally, a branch or two strikes at her in the face, but Mathers pays no heed: her eyes fixed on the figure ahead.

The distance between them gradually shortens until Mathers chases the figure to the edge of the woods.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Stop! Or I will shoot!

Half in the shadow, the figure halts and puts their hands up. Mathers, with her gun pointed at their back, inches closer. The night's silence broken by the leaves' crisp crumbling under her feet. Crunch, crunch, and just when they were within a hand's reach, the figure darts to the right where there is nothing but a cliff. Mathers opens fire but a moment too late. She runs towards the cliff, looks down, and sees again the mystery man disappearing into the shadows, but this time they had assistance: a rope.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Fuck!

After taking a quick moment to recompose herself, Mathers pulls out her phone and calls PRESCOTT.

MATHERS (cont'd)

(Panting)
Our guy is a climber. A damn good one at that.

PRESCOTT

You think the fire could be related?

MATHERS

I'm not sure but this guy definitely is hiding something.

PRESCOTT

Well, my guess is whatever he doesn't want us to know is on Yodi's computer. It's gone.

Upon hearing this, Mathers stares at the rope still tethered to a stake in front of her, deep in thought.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20 INT. BRETT'S OFFICE, ANCHORAGE - DAY

20

Brett Mahoney sits at his desk; a pile of documents rests in front of him. He wears a button-up and a fleece. His sleek, modern office has glass walls that showcase a beautiful vista of the city and its distant mountains. Mark Rosen sits across from him.

ROSEN

So you really think we should ship 'em?

Brett stands and grabs documents.

BRETT

(sarcastic)

No, I think we should take a million-dollar bath over some sweatshop that every other company and their Etsy mom uses. Ship 'em.

Tosses documents towards Mark. His secretary, LINDA (35), calls the office:

LINDA (O.S.)

Mr. Mahoney? It's Linda on the intercom, a detective says he's here to see you.

BRETT

(startled)

Yeah, Linda, could you tell him I'm in the middle of a meeting.

LINDA (O.S.)

They're already on their way in sir-

-

Detective Mathers and Harper enter.

MATHERS

Mr. Mahoney, I hope we're not interrupting...

BRETT

No no, "*Dunilggux, chin'an gheli.*" As the natives say. Welcome. Please.

He gestures towards two awkward, low chairs at the side of the room. Harper and Mathers try their best to sit:

HARPER

We just have a few questions.

BRETT

Of course, happy to--

Glances at Mark. Mark lifts an eyebrow.

BRETT (cont'd)

(sitting)

Well, happy to hear what you have to say.

HARPER

Mr. Mahoney, we won't waste too much of your time, as we know you're... a busy man.

(half-beat)

By this time, I'm sure you're well aware of the murder of your former hiking partner, Yodi--

BRETT

Yes, a terrible, terrible thing.

HARPER

...Yes, well, as you are one of the few people connected with both victims in this recent case, Detective Mathers and I need to know your whereabouts during the time of death of the victims.

BRETT

(incredulous)

Ha! Well, that is quite a loaded... question... But where should I start? Of course, with Paul--

ROSEN

Harper... I appreciate that you're trying to make headway on this case, but I believe what Mr. Mahoney means to say is that he is concerned with business and would not involve himself with such dubious schemes, and really, there is nothing more to be said--

BRETT

I can speak for myself, Mark.

Mark alarmedly glances at Brett.

BRETT (cont'd)

To start, as for Paul, I'm sure everybody knows, of course. Nothing could be done; it was either him or all of us on that descent. So, we made a business decision and continued; Leah could certainly vouch for that.

MATHERS

...And Yodi, two days ago?

BRETT

(confident, smiles)

I was in the office. Check the tapes, check the logs, check whatever. We're launching a collab with FitBit, you know they're really more than just a watch company--

HARPER

We haven't been able to identify--

BRETT

And, you know, one more thing, I can't just sit on my money. Yodi at least let me help with the shop every month I... I only wanted to be a friend. Lord knows I'd do the same for Leah.

HARPER

I see.

(beat)

We also haven't been able to identify the ax involved with Paul's death, and we know that icepicks became a starting point for your company...

BRETT

Yes, I developed all my equipment. How do you think I built all this?
(gestures at office)

HARPER
You built this office?

BRETT
...This company.
(beat)
Anyway, all those prototypes are likely long gone now. Build one, throw it away, build another. Always move forward, more functional, sleeker, sexier. I founded this company by myself, you know. By the sweat of my brow, I built this company into what it is.

ROSEN
And I think that, that reason, is the bottom line. Mr. Mahoney was interested from a financial perspective. He, of course, cared about Yodi, and Paul, and Leah; he's a philanthropist. But he made the "Legend of the Perfect Climb" into a business. It's a philosophy-- a way of life--and, really, what crime is that?

Harper and Mathers, not quite buying it, glance at each other and shrug. They shake hands with Brett and Mark.

MATHERS
No more questions, thank you for your time.

Mark holds Harper's hand a little longer:

ROSEN
(smiling)
Got any plans tonight?

21 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT, ANCHORAGE - NIGHT

21

Rosen and Harper sit, white tablecloth between them, the table covered with plates and a good bottle of wine.

More than a little sexual tension, with a dollop of left-over hurt.

HARPER
I gotta admit, I do miss a good meal.

ROSEN
What about the company?

Harper cuts into her ribeye with glee.

HARPER
Not as good as the steak.
(then)
You want a bite?

She proffers her fork, then takes it back and eats it herself. Both having fun.

ROSEN
The state of Alaska doesn't pay you enough.

Why did they ever break up? Still feelings? Oh yeah.

HARPER
High five figures. But in exchange for the comically low wage, I put bad guys where they belong. And I sleep like a baby.
(then)
You know, guys like Brett Mahoney.

ROSEN
OK, Brett very controlling and a little pompous -

HARPER
Enormous blowhard.

ROSEN
But he's not a killer, Ali.

HARPER
And you know this how?

ROSEN
He's too smart. The guy taught me something. Something they don't teach you in law school.

HARPER
Enlighten me.

She takes another huge bite of steak.

ROSEN
You must control every decision in your life. Everything.
(MORE)

ROSEN (cont'd)

From a billion dollar stock buyback to the socks you pick out in the morning.

HARPER

Sounds exhausting.

ROSEN

I'm serious. Total self-reliance. Total control. It's how you get to the top.

HARPER

(sarcastically)

Is that how he got there? To the mountaintop? well, there was a man up there with an ax in his skull. And every passing hour it looks more and more like Brett Mahoney put it there.

After a long beat, Rosen smiles, realizes something

ROSEN

You know what? You're jealous.

HARPER

What?

ROSEN

That you still have feelings for me.

HARPER

It's been so long, I forgot how modest you were. And that's not jealousy. That's called revenge.

ROSEN

No bullshit, you take down Brett Mahoney, you take me down too. And then you can finally put us in the rearview.

HARPER

You're kidding, right?

ROSEN

You know why I asked you to dinner.

HARPER

Because you're still in love with me.

ROSEN
To offer you a job.

Wait. What?

HARPER
A job?

ROSEN
You're the best lawyer in this
damned state, and it's time you
were fairly compensated. Big cases.
Corner office. Killer view. A
million bucks to start.

He looks her in the eye. She sips her wine.

ROSEN (cont'd)
You're worth it, Ali.

Off Harper, considering --

22 INT. VICO'S LAB - DAY

22

Vico stands by his lab table exasperated and tired.

VICO
Adrenaline seekers will continue to
puzzle me. Why would anyone make
their happiness contingent on
whether they climb "xyz" mountain
baffles me. If I took anything away
from *Into the Wild*, it's a) don't
go into the Alaskan wilderness
alone and b) don't into the Alaskan
wilderness period. Ok, I realize
that I'm talking to myself at this
point. And I'm still talking to
myself.

Vico stands hunched over lab table and rummages through
documents and photographs of the crime scene.

VICO (cont'd)
Ok, Vico get a hold of yourself.
Let's just focus on the case and
think about this logically.

He picks up a footprint, turns to his computer by the table,
and holds up the footprint to an image on the screen.

VICO (cont'd)

This footprint looks awfully small.
It can't be... holy shit, it's
Leah's.

Vico turns in multiple directions, scanning the room for his cell phone. As soon as he sees it across the room on his desk, he lunges for it, almost knocking of the stool near him. Vico dials Mathers, who is on his speed dial.

VICO (cont'd)

Mathers you're going to want to get
a hold of Leah. Turns out she
wasn't Yodi's biggest fan.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

23 INT. JAIL, INTERVIEW ROOM, TALKEETNA - DAY

23

Mathers enters the interrogation room, a stone cold look on her face. She pulls out a chair and sits, keeping eye contact with Leah.

MATHERS

Leah Rodriguez.

Leah nods her head hesitantly at Mather's, folding her hands in front of her on the table.

MATHERS (cont'd)

I'm going to ask you some questions about Yodi. I don't want any bullshit.

Leah nods her head, remaining silent. She is visibly sad by Yodi's recent death.

MATHERS (cont'd)

What was your relationship with Yodi like?

Leah shifts in her chair, taking a deep breath.

LEAH

Old friends, like family actually. All of us are.

MATHERS

Family? I've heard from around town that you two got into a pretty big fight at the bar the other night.

Leah pauses, she seems a little flustered.

LEAH

Yeah, well family fights.

MATHERS

What were you fighting about?

LEAH

It was a little disagreement, nothing beyond that. Why are we even talking about this? Yodi is dead. My friend is dead, you really think I did this?

Mathers locks in, expecting this reaction.

MATHERS

I told you I didn't want any
bullshit.

LEAH

I'm not giving you bullshit, Yodi
was a a good friend.

MATHERS

Oh, now he's just a good friend?
Not family?

Leah is frustrated and upset. Mathers is confident and
presses on.

MATHERS (cont'd)

I just want to know why I found
your footprint in Yodi's
mountaineering shop after his
death.

Leah knows she is caught.

LEAH

I didn't kill Yodi!

MATHERS

I'm just looking at the evidence
Leah, and the evidence puts you in
the Mountaineering store sometime
near Yodi's death

LEAH

Alright, fine I was there. I took
his laptop, but I didn't kill him!
I didn't kill Yodi.

MATHERS

Why did you take his laptop ?

Leah hesitates, breaking eye contact with Mathers and
nervously playing with her hands.

LEAH

I can't tell you.

MATHERS

Unfortunately, Leah that's not how
this works.

Mathers is worked up a little bit now at Leah's withholding of information.

MATHERS (cont'd)
Does it involve Carol?

Leah pulls away, obviously upset by this accusation.

LEAH
What?

LEAH (cont'd)
Why are you bringing Carol into this? I have nothing to say about her.

MATHERS
Come on Leah, I'm going to get it out of you one way or another. Do us all a favor and tell me what was on that laptop you took.

Leah doesn't budge. She is emotional about the accusations being made, but stubborn and unmoving. She shakes her head looking down at the floor. Mather's, frustrated scrapes back her chair.

MATHERS (cont'd)
We're not done.

Mathers exits, frustrated but clearly determined as well.

24 **INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TALKEETNA - DAY**

24

Harper and Mathers fall into their familiar seats in the office, facing each other with Mathers behind a desk. Harper occasionally takes sips from a mug of coffee.

HARPER
Heard Leah confessed to messing with the footprint. You really believe that's all it was?

MATHERS
I think I do. I tell you, all my years of this, and I still never can be quite sure when I'm being lied to.

HARPER

Well, it's been a while since we've seen something like this up here, huh?

MATHERS

We've got a showy billionaire, a lady sleeping with all her friends, and now two dead bodies? Shit, I don't know if I've ever seen anything like it.

HARPER

(laughs darkly,
then becomes
serious again)

Something's just not quite right. What's Leah hiding? I mean she doesn't have a lot to be scared of losing, if you know what I mean.

MATHERS

Money wise, maybe... but I don't know... rock junkie like her, she hardly cares if she has a roof over her head as long as that whole crew of climbing bums worship her. She's gotta be protecting something, I just can't quite figure out what...

Mathers trails off, leaving Harper to fill the silence.

HARPER

(pensively)

We were those bums once. All young Alaskans are, I think. Before all this, offices and careers and responsibility. Remember how badly we wanted to climb? How nothing else mattered as long as it was us and the rock? Ya know, it doesn't go away, that feeling. Sometimes I miss it so much it hurts.

MATHERS

(looking pensive)

Mmm, doesn't go away... you're right about that...

Mathers abruptly sits up and gathers her things, struck by a thought.

MATHERS (cont'd)
 Alison, you're a genius. I gotta
 run.

Mathers stills, looks at Harper.

MATHERS (cont'd)
 There's one more question I need to
 find the answer to.

25 **EXT. CAROL'S HOME, FAIRBANKS - DAY**

25

Mathers knocks, and Carol opens the door.

MATHERS
 Sorry for the intrusion, there were
 some pending issues and questions I
 had. Can't really leave an itch
 unscratched y'know.

CAROL
 Yeah I get what you mean. Happens
 to the best of us, no?

MATHERS
 Including to geniuses like Brett?
 (a beat, then)
 Sorry, bad joke...

Carol motions Mathers to come inside.

A25 **INT. CAROL'S HOME, FAIRBANKS - DAY**

A25

Mathers enters the home she notices trinkets and objects of
 olden climbing days. The air leaves for nothing to breathe,
 quite a melancholic place of existence. Carol invites Mathers
 to take a seat in the home's dining hall. They sit across each
 other from within a moderately short table.

CAROL
 So, what's this itch that you've
 been having? Can't scratch it
 yourself? I'm not a back scratcher
 you know?

MATHERS
 Yeah I've tried doing it myself
 but I think you'd be perfect for
 the job.

CAROL

Okay just cut the bullshit, get to the point.

MATHERS

What did you mean when you said you were disillusioned with climbing?

Carol doesn't make a sound for what seems to be a very long time. Her eyes wander the room with a face of hesitation and grim. Mathers can't help but lean back and give Carol some space within the short three feet of distance they had from each other from where they were sitting. Carol suddenly gets up after a moment of contemplation.

CAROL

Follow me.

26 INT. CAROL'S HOME, ATTIC - DAY

26

A dark attic filled with lots of old junk in cardboard boxes.

CAROL

This is where the field trip ends.

Suddenly a light appears as a hatch in the floor is opened. We hear Mathers coming up the ladder and see her appear with a flashlight. Carol follows.

Mathers starts looking around as she shines her light on the various boxes. She gets to one and starts going through it. It's full of pictures of a younger Carol along with the rest of the group.

CAROL (cont'd)

Ah, the good old days. We sure had some wicked times together.

Mathers flashes her light around to see more boxes full of old climbing gear and souvenirs before returning to the pictures. She has a plan to get more information from Carol.

MATHERS

Why did you keep all of this stuff? It's not like you were actually part of the group.

This strikes a nerve in Carol.

CAROL

What do you mean? Of course I was.
They all loved me.

MATHERS

I don't think so, it seems they've
all moved on without you.

Carol starts to get angry.

CAROL

They have not. I'm still important
to them.

MATHERS

Right. But it's not like you made
it to the top, that's what really
bonded them together.

CAROL

Well neither did they!

She covers her mouth in instant regret at the revealed
outburst as Mathers looks at her surprised.

MATHERS

What?

Carol sighs and decides the cat's out of the bag now.

CAROL

It's all a lie. The so-called
"LEGEND". Paul told me. It was too
difficult for them just like it was
for everyone else. So they never
made it. But they wanted everyone
to think they did to have their
glory. And I guess I never thought
to question it because they were
already glorious in my eyes.
Besides, who was a little white lie
going to hurt?

Mathers continues to look shocked for a moment.

CAROL (cont'd)

You're not going to tell them I
told you that, right? Please don't.
They would hate me forever.

Carol looks very panicked as Mathers calms her down.

MATHERS

Hey, don't worry. I won't tell them, your secret's safe with me.

Mathers looks around in concentration for a moment before her face lights up with an idea.

MATHERS (cont'd)

All these souvenirs. Did you happen to keep any of the old prototypes from the climb?

CAROL

Yeah, I think so. Let me look.

She starts going through the various boxes until she finds the right one.

CAROL (cont'd)

I think they're in here.

Mathers comes over and looks through the box until she finds what she's looking for. She smiles as she holds it up...The original mold.

27 **INT. CRIME LAB, FOUNDRY - NIGHT**

27

After Mathers' new-found revelation she takes what seems most relevant to her, the mold. Mathers rushes to the crime lab where she can find Vico.

VICO

Hey big shot, what brings you here?

MATHERS

There is no time to explain! I need you to do something ASAP!
PRONTO! RIGHT NOW!

VICO

I get it I get it, don't worry I've got you.

(notices what
Mather is holding)

What's that you've got there?

MATHERS

Brett's old prototype molds.

VICO

WHAT??? How'd you get that!?

MATHERS

I'll explain it to you in a bit,
but I seriously need you to make a
wax model from this mold.

Vico and Mathers hold an intense stare.

VICO

Time to get to work, am I right?

MATHERS

Let's catch this motherfucker.

Vico and Mathers rush to Vico's workspace. Vico grabs his tools and prepares the wax that will go into the mold. As Vico gets to work, Mathers watches. After a while Vico seems to be ready. He pours the molten wax into the mold.

VICO

Now we wait.

MATHERS

How long will it take?

VICO

Not long, it'll be ready real soon.

They watch the molten wax in the mold cool down.

VICO (CONT'D) (cont'd)

It's ready.

Vico pops out the cooled down wax from the mold.

VICO (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Behold.

MATHERS

It's beautiful.

Vico and Mathers compare the wax replica from that of the crime scene. It's a match.

MATHERS (cont'd)

It's a perfect match.

VICO

Seems like it.

MATHERS

We got him.

28 INT. TOWN CAFE - DAY

28

Mathers sidles in, easily spots Leah- she's holding court with her group of climbing kids- swiveling heads follow her every gesture, paying rapt attention.

Mathers leans against a wall, crosses her arms and waits.

LEAH

We didn't realize the storm was setting in until it was too late.

KID 1

How did you guys decide who would set the rope?

LEAH

We were up on the summit. Winds picking up. We knew it was bad.

Kids lean in. Leah looks up, to Mathers.

LEAH (cont'd)

Paul volunteered.

KID 2

Did you know he wouldn't make it?

Leah shakes head.

LEAH

We knew it was risky. We all tried to reason with him. But he was right. There was no other way.

The group grows morose. Quiet.

KID 1

(wistful)

I want to summit Denali, like you.

LEAH

There's a reason it's just us four.

MATHERS

Only two now.

Swiveling heads turn to Mathers.

MATHERS (cont'd)

I hate to interrupt.

Leah nods at the group, dismisses them. Mathers walks over.

MATHERS (cont'd)
Still peddling the same story?

LEAH
I don't know what you mean.

Leah begins to pack her bag up with quick, tense movements.

MATHERS
Come on, Leah. The four of you
never made it up there.

LEAH
(leaning in close,
speaking low)
You don't know what you're talking
about.

MATHERS
Tell the truth. You're doing a
disservice to your friends.

LEAH
So I should change the story of the
climb, after all these years? And
tarnish their memory?

MATHERS
Paul deserves it. Yodi, too.

LEAH
The legend is too important. To all
of us.

Mathers clocks two kids waiting, eager to talk to Leah.

LEAH (cont'd)
I can't help you.

She shoulders past Mathers.

29 INT. BRETT'S OFFICE, ANCHORAGE - DAY

29

Mathers and Harper make their way through Brett's office building, eventually finding his office. They enter. Brett sits at his desk, looking up with surprise when the two enter.

BRETT
Excuse me, is there a problem here?

Mathers makes her way over to Brett calmly. Harper stands by.

MATHERS

I want to do this the easy way
Brett, but I need you to cooperate
for that to happen.

Brett is confused and unsure until he sees the handcuffs in Mathers' hands.

BRETT

Rayna. Don't be dumb, you know what
this will do to me.

MATHERS

Which is why I'm suggesting you
cooperate and we don't make a
scene.

BRETT

Come on, you don't want to do this.
You're going to ruin everything I
have. Everything I've built.

HARPER

You've already done that yourself.

Brett turns to Harper, confused and flustered.

HARPER (cont'd)

You built everything you have based
off of a story. A fairytale. A lie.

Brett is desperate now, knowing what is about to happen. He looks to Mathers who is now at his desk.

BRETT

Don't do this. Please Rayna.

MATHERS

Brett Mahoney, you are under arrest
for the murders of Paul Eriksen and
Yodi.

Mathers takes out handcuffs and begins to handcuff Brett's hands behind his back. He is too shocked to resist or say anything. Mathers reads out Brett's list of rights and they escort him out of his office.

30 INT. ANCHORAGE STARBUCKS - DAY

30

Harper and Mark Rosen sit together at a table.

ROSEN

Wait, so it was all a lie?

Harper and Mark sit across from each other at the table. They make eye contact and marks smiles, causing Harper to blush

HARPER

Yes, crazy right? So apparently Paul, Brett, Leah, and Yodi faked the whole thing. They never reached the summit of Denali.

Mark is surprised and shakes his head at the audacity of them

ROSEN

wow, ..so They all just kept this huge secret for the past twenty years

Mark slightly caresses Harper's hand as she look at him with a smirk

HARPER

Yep, Brett got rich because of this lie and was giving Yodi money to keep his rock climbing store open. Meanwhile, Leah lies to kids everyday about her fake Denali summit.

Harper slides her hand away from Mark

HARPER (cont'd)

You know ... Paul was the only one that didn't want to go along with the lie and your client was not happy about it.

Mark shifts in his seat, leaning his elbows across the table. Harper and Mark are staring each other down. Mark is a little amused by Harper. Harper is determined to take Mark down

HARPER (cont'd)

I bet Brett knew Paul would never go through with it. That's why Brett killed him, and to cover his tracks, he killed Yodi too. Your client is in big trouble Mark

Harper is now smirking at Mark, feeling prideful. Mark is turned on by the challenging look Harper gives him

ROSEN

Cute, real cute. You think you have it all figured out huh. Nice theory, lets see if you can prove that!

Harper leans in face to face with Mark staring him down and when he leans in closer for a kiss, she teasingly pulls away with a smile on her face

HARPER

See you in court, motherfucker!

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE