

FADE IN:

EXT. BAR - WINTER -- DAY

The dead of winter entombs a cozy little tavern on the outskirts of a small town in northern Minnesota. Snow piles up and over the few cars in the lot as the blizzard rages on...

INT. MAIN BAR -- DAY

Trophy heads, mounted wildlife and Polaroids of past festivities adorn the log cabin walls of the dingy place these locals call home away from home. JUSTICE MASTERSON is the owner and barkeep, a life-hardened middle-aged woman with a unique common sensibility. Her attention, along with everyone in the bar is on the TV mounted over them.

TV REPORTER

It's day two of the search for Jack Heart, the alleged rapist who has been missing since he was released on bail last Thursday. Authorities now consider him a level-one priority, and are asking for help from anyone who might know the where-abouts of this man.

The unkempt and confused face of the fugitive is underlined by the prisoner numbers below his picture and profile which now fills the screen.

JUSTICE

He don't look like no killer. He's just a baby.

TV REPORTER

He's said to be dangerous and probably armed.

JOHN

Dangerous, my ass. He'd better stay clear of me an' my thirty-thirty.

He holds up his arms as if aiming a shotgun.

JOHN (CONT'D)

One coward down. Bang! And that's all she wrote.

JUSTICE

Shhh, be quiet John.

TV REPORTER

His last known location is somewhere in Richardson Co., where he may, or may not have killed a pursuing F.B.I. agent. Again, this just in. An unconfirmed report that Jack Heart the alleged rapist who didn't show up for his court date two days ago, may have just killed an F.B.I. agent.

An exchange of concerned looks filter through the bar.

TV REPORTER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

And now, more on the blizzard sweeping across the state as we take a look at the weather report. We'll keep you updated as more details on the fugitive case comes in.

TV REPORTER #2

Many are stranded in the northern part of the state with over four feet of snowfall, blowing winds, icy roads and no end in sight...(sound trails off)

Just then, John Hart, the fugitive from the TV report bursts through the door...