

Mark Jansen – Character Profile

Core Identity: Mark Jansen is the tragic embodiment of systemic failure. A hard-working, quietly intelligent oil field laborer from rural Alberta, Mark has spent his entire adult life watching the world thrive everywhere *but* where he stands. He isn't radical by nature—he's a fixer, a realist, a man who believes that if something is broken, you *repair* it. But when that "something" becomes his entire country, and every fix is met with silence, disdain, or punishment, desperation becomes the only blueprint left.

Backstory & Emotional Drivers: - Grew up poor. Parents died young—never got a roadmap for how to live beyond survival. - Started working the oil fields at 18. Spent two decades trading his body for subsistence. - Watched his paychecks shrink from taxes, inflation, carbon levies—while the cost of living ballooned. - He's seen condos rise in Ottawa and vacation photos flood in from California while his town's gas station shut down. - Every relationship he's had—romantic or familial—has either failed or been ripped away. - **He is *not* angry by default—he's angry by accumulation.**

Emotional Core: - Mark's deepest wound is the belief that *he's been forgotten* by the country he gave everything to. - His drive isn't for power or ideology—it's the stubborn hope that *maybe, just maybe*, he can carve out a livable world for himself and Sarah. - Every speech, every rally, every broadcast he makes isn't about violence—it's about trying to *matter*. Trying to *be heard*.

Contradictions (Human Realism): - Fiercely patriotic—but doesn't watch hockey, avoids stereotypical Canadianness. - Deeply principled—but once shoplifted from a grocery store during a layoff to eat. - Wants unity—but increasingly alienates those closest to him. - Fixes everything he can—but sees his country as too far gone to repair.

Personality Details: - Straightforward, no-nonsense communicator. Doesn't dress things up. - Deeply loyal to family. Protective to a fault. - Power sports guy: snowmobiles, dirt bikes, anything that moves fast and drowns out the noise. - Not book-smart but *intuitively sharp*—can read a room or a lie instantly. - Doesn't trust politics but can recite recent legislation affecting energy workers better than most policy wonks.

Micro-scene Example – Reflection of Personality:

Mark tightens a bolt on an aging ATV in his garage. His hands are scarred but careful. On a nearby crate, a radio buzzes with news from Ottawa. Another scandal. Another bailout.

He grits his teeth, wipes his hands, and speaks—not to anyone, just to the air.

MARK: "How come when a banker fucks up, he gets a golden parachute... and when we ask for a tax break, it's 'sorry, not in the budget?'"

He slams the hood shut. The machine purrs to life. One thing still works.

Tragic Trajectory (Series Arc): - Begins as a relatable everyman. Becomes a symbol. Then becomes a stranger to the people he loves. - His transformation is not about being seduced by ideology—it's about being weaponized by the narrative he needed to believe in. - His sister's eventual death (Sarah) is not just a heartbreak—it's the moment he realizes **he's fixed the wrong thing**.

Writing Notes for Future Scenes: - Let Mark fail *quietly*. Miss an anniversary. Forget his sister's birthday. Small human cracks. - Let him express joy in *tiny, manly ways*—fixing an engine, seeing a protestor quote him. - Always let his pain leak from under his logic. He justifies, compartmentalizes, and *believes*, even when he's dying inside.

Tagline Summary: He didn't want to break the country. He just wanted it to work—for once—for someone like him.

Status: ACTIVE USE – LOCKED FOR WRITING CONTINUITY