

# RESTRICTED TERRITORY

Act II

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## Act II

[ Layout ]

### Act II Scene 1

[ Arrival ]

Sunday, 19 Nov 2017

It is late afternoon on a crisp and cold winter mountainside in the Sierra's. The sun is bright just above the western horizon and there is almost a foot of snow on the ground. It is quiet except for the sounds of the forest. The camera pans slowly to reveal the snow covered valley a few hundred feet below. In the distance an engine sound is faintly heard. The camera continues panning toward the ever increasing engine sound. The source of the sound, an ATV with snow tracks, is now coming into view.

Sam rides his ATV past the camera and stops about 30 feet away. As the camera follows Sam, the cabin is now seen about 50 feet from the camera. The cabin is an old wooden structure built in a cutout on the mountainside. Sam is astonished at the impeccable preservation of the building and that it is still standing over so many years. There are three steps up to the covered porch. Another building, an old but well maintained barn, is beyond the cabin.

Sam dismounts from the ATV, removes his helmet and unzips his coat. He takes a couple steps toward the cabin and looks it over in amazement.

Sam: (Out loud, to himself.) Wow! That's amazing. (He takes out his cell phone.)

Sam looks at the phone. Camera shows phone with no service.

Sam: (Disappointingly.) Figures.



Looking East at cabin. Mountainside is South of cabin.

Music reflecting the expanse and beauty of the snow covered valley.

Sam takes a quick picture of the cabin, then one of the valley.

Sam puts his phone away, takes off his hydration pack and pulls a ‘SPOT’ from one of the pockets. He turns it on, wanders about 20 feet toward the valley to get a better look, and sends an OK message from his SPOT.

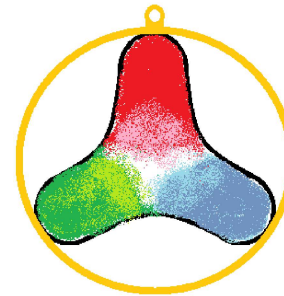
Sam: At least they’ll know I made it up here and that there’s no cell service. Oh well, better check it out.

Sam takes in a big, deep breath.

Sam: Hmm, smells like Manzanita smoke. Must be clearing some brush.

Wac ih a’: ( From behind Sam, in a calm, reserved voice.) Do you always talk to yourself?

Wac ih a’ is an elderly, tall, thin man with native American features. He is dressed in standard cowboy clothes, but wears a ‘70’s style leather vest with fringe. He also wears an amulet around his neck. The amulet is a rounded triangle made of what appears to be one lobe ruby, one emerald and one sapphire with them melding in the middle to diamond. It is encircled by a gold ring. This is the same as the one worn by the man who gave Sam his knife.



Sam, startled, spins around quickly, his hand finds the revolver under his coat, but he does not draw or expose it.

Sam: Whew, . . . you startled me.

Wac ih a’: (Speaks in a formal, staccato manner.) A bit jumpy, I see. Well, you won’t need that just now. ( He nods toward Sam’s right hip.) I suppose you are here about the property.

Sam lets go of the gun and takes an easier stance.

Sam: (Recovering from the surprise.) Oh, uh yeah, Hi. My Name is Sam, Sam Reynolds. I’m Sorry for the intrusion. I was led to believe that no one was permitted here. (Sam holds out his hand to shake.)

Wac ih a': [\(Raises his hand past Sam's and puts it on his chest.\)](#) I am Wac ih a', the caretaker. It is only me here for the next two weeks. My family is vacationing out of state. The Creighton's asked me to look over the property until the ownership fight is over. [\(He then lowers his hand to meet Sam's in a shake\).](#)

Sam: [\(Pleased that he wasn't left hanging.\)](#) Nice to meet you Mr. Wac ih a'.

Wac ih a': No 'mister', just Wac ih a'. I will be pleased to take you around the property tomorrow. Come on in, I'll get you some coffee.

[They start waking toward the cabin.](#)

Wac ih a': By the way, your nose is much better than your hearing. Seems like a bear could have walked right up and given you a hug, before you noticed him.

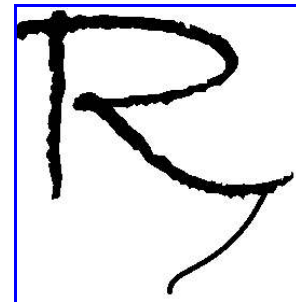
Sam: Yeah. Hearing loss is an occupational injury from my previous job.

Wac ih a': I see. We use manzanita, once in a while, to reduce the creosote in the stove. We use only wood for heating and cooking - there's no gas or electricity here.

Sam: [\(Sees his ATV and baggage. He starts to point at the ATV.\)](#) Since the cabin's already occupied, looks like I'll have to make other arrangements ...

Wac ih a': No. Not at all. There is plenty of room for guests. We'll get your belongings later. Oh, watch your step, that first one can be something special. The snow and ice don't help.

[They head into the cabin. Sam notices the first step is a flat, icy, shale stone. In one of the corners is Ren's mark - a stylized R. The other steps are wood. Once on the porch, Sam removes his boots and places them by the door. Wac ih a' is wearing moccasins, so he just wipes his feet before entering the house.](#)



[Ren's Mark](#)

## Act II, Scene 2

[ The Cabin ]

Inside the cabin is the main dining/living room with a large, plain, dining table that can seat eight. There is a wood burning Franklin stove near the wall on the right, between two doors. The furnishings are sparse but well kept. There are windows on the left wall (N) and the wall by the front door (W). All the windows have interior shutters.

On the walls, spaced around the main room, several oil lamps are hung. There are also two oil lamps on the dining table. There is a mat near the front door and a rug in front of each of the two rooms off the main room.

Through either of the two doors near the heating stove are bedrooms. The bedroom closest to the front door has a window to the porch (W). The other bedroom has a rear window facing the mountainside (S).

Just beyond the main room, is a kitchen separated from the main room by walls that only poke into the opening a short distance (six to eight inches), like a three sided window frame. The kitchen has a wood burning oven/stove, some cupboards, a work table and a couple counters. One counter has a hand pump and basin. On the stove is a coffee pot, a kettle and an iron skillet. There is another oil lamp on the work table that sits in the middle of the kitchen.

There are three doors off the kitchen. The farthest door in the kitchen (E wall), opposite wall of the front door, leads out the back toward the barn and outhouse. The other doors are on the right (S) wall. Of these, the farthest goes to a third bedroom. This bedroom has a window facing the barn (E). The other door leads to a small ante room with a bath tub and a door from there that leads to the pantry/root cellar that is built into the mountain.

Wac ih a': Make yourself at home.

Wac ih a' goes over to the kitchen stove, gets the coffee pot and a couple tin cups. He pours the coffee on the way back to the table.

Sam finishes getting his boots off and enters the house and, checking it out on his way to the table.

Sam: Thanks for the hospitality. I haven't even told you who I'm working for.

Wac ih a': (Gesturing for him to sit on one of the chairs at the table.) I'm pretty sure you are here on behalf of the Creighton family.

Sam: (As Sam sits, so does Wac ih a'.) How so?

Wac ih a': I saw two trespassers up here the other day. They put some chemicals on the ground. Then, the next morning someone else came and collected the dirt where the chemicals were poured. Anybody being that clandestine, *and stupid*, has to be working for the Wilson's.

Sam: Actually, I'm here on behalf of a Mr. Owens.

Wac ih a': Of course. Miss Creighton married into the Owens family back in the 1870's. The Owens' administer the Creighton Foundation. My family has been care taking here for several generations. That's why there is a name mixup. Unfortunately, the Wilson's are still the Wilson's.

Sam: I thought the other interested party was a big ranch near town called the Bar R Bar.

Wac ih a': Sure. Wilson owns the Bar R Bar. Part of the same family that started this whole mess. I'll fill you in on the details as we ride the property tomorrow. You do ride, of course?

Sam: (Confidently.) Sure, ATV's, motorcycle, snowmobile?

Sam takes a sip of coffee. His expression shows that he really likes it.

Wac ih a': What about a horse?

Sam: (Confidence shaken.) Umm. Well . . . It's been a while. Maybe 35 years.

Wac ih a': I'll put you on my daughter's horse. He's very gentle and we'll take our time. (He looks out the window and sees that it is getting dark.) You best get your belongings in. You can put your snow machine in the barn. And if you want to wear your boots in the morning, you might want to bring them inside. Critters love to tear 'em up. Even when they're frozen .

Sam: Yeah, I suppose I better get my stuff in. (Sam stands.) With these short days, it gets dark rather early. (He finishes his coffee and puts the cup on the table.) You notice it more when you're not in the street lights of the cities.

Wac ih a': In two days we'll have a full moon. It is usually bright enough that you don't need any lights at all; however, there's going to be a little storm come through that will probably hide the moon. (Sam nods in understanding.)

### Act II, Scene 3

[ Cold and Slippery ]

Scene: Front porch and yard. Sam goes out the front door. He finds his boots frozen like the host eluded. He struggles to get them on. He then goes down the steps, slips on the bottom one, but doesn't fall down. As he continues toward his snow machine, he looks back at the step, shakes his head.

Sam: (Muttering to himself, sarcastically.) Somthin' else, huh. (He continues toward the ATV.)

### Act II, Scene 4

[ Tranquility at Night ]

Scene: Outside the cabin near the barn, late evening, the moon is almost full. The outhouse is about half way between the barn and cabin. Attached to one side of the outhouse is the wood shed. The shed is about half full. Sam rides his ATV up to the door of the barn. He gets off and rolls the large door open. After a quick look inside, he re-mounts and backs the ATV into the barn and shuts it down. The sound of the ATV stirs the horses and they can be heard moving in their stalls. Sam takes his bags off the ATV steps out and closes the barn door. On the way to the house, a great horned owl can be heard. Although mostly blocked by trees, Sam looks over the valley. It is tranquil. A slight gurgling of a creek mixes with the occasional sound of a mild breeze. In the distance, to the west, a glow can be seen from the towns and cities far away. Red lights flash on the top of a transmission tower a few miles away and a plane's lights can be seen as it transits the sky.

Sam turns and goes into the cabin through the back door. He kicks off his boots and leaves them just inside the back door. He then places his food bag on the kitchen table and takes his other bags to his room; his room is the one with the window to the porch.

## **End of Act II**

[To Act I](#)

[To Act III](#)