

# RESTRICTED TERRITORY

## Act XVI Back at the Cabin

<a href="#">Riddle Solved? .....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Collecting a Few Things .....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Something Special, Indeed .....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>

[End of Act XVI](#)

[To Act XV](#)

[To Act XVII](#)

## Act XVI

[ Back at the Cabin ]

### Act XVI, Scene 1

[ Riddle Solved? ]

Scene: Exterior, miner's cabin. Screen display: '(2 weeks later)'. It is a beautiful winter day. The sky is clear and bright blue. There is about two feet of snow blanketing the cabin site. It is quiet except for the sound of an ATV approaching. Wac ih a' steps out onto the front porch and watches as the ATV arrives. Sam and Austin get off the ATV and remove their helmets. They put the helmets on the seats then walk toward the cabin.

Sam: Wac ih a', good to see you again. (Shaking Wac ih a's hand. Then stepping aside to present Austin.) You remember Austin? (Austin shakes Wac ih a's hand.)

Wac ih a': Of course I do. White Squirrel, isn't it? (Austin nods to affirm.) It is good to see you well.

Austin: Thank you Wac ih a'. It'll be a couple months before I'm actually well, but I'm getting better every day.

Wac ih a': Let's get you inside then. (As they are walking toward the cabin. Addressing Sam.) What brings you up? Bill, CJ and Tylor came up and collected your stuff the day after you went to the hospital.

Sam: A couple things actually. If it's not inconvenient, a cup of your fine coffee is one of them.

Wac ih a': Of course, my pleasure. (Sam and Austin kick off their boots and the three of them go into the cabin.)

They are greeted at the door by a beautiful lady about Wac ih a's age and an equally beautiful girl about Twelve. They both have features that suggest they have a native American ancestry.

Wac ih a': Sam, White Squirrel, I'd like to introduce you to my wife, Savanna and my granddaughter Page. Page is just up visiting for the weekend while her dad is in Sacramento for a conference. They fly back to Belize tomorrow evening.

Sam: (Addressing Savanna as he takes her hand.) It is a pleasure to finally meet you.

Savanna: I've heard a lot about you.

Sam: (Addressing Page as he shakes her hand.) I hope you are enjoying your stay.

Page: <Spanish> Si. </Spanish> (Remembering she should be speaking English.) Sorry, (Nervous giggle.) yes. Yes I am, thank you.

Austin: (Addressing Savanna. Following Sam's lead, he takes her hand.) Pleasure to meet you ma'am.

Savanna: It's nice to see you, Austin. Glad you're feeling better.

Austin: (Addressing Savanna.) Thank you. (Addressing Page. Speaking Spanish.) <Spanish> Buenos días, Page. </Spanish> [Trans: Good day, Page]

Page: <Spanish> Buenos días, Ardilla blanca. ¿te sientes bien? </Spanish> [Trans: Good day White Squirrel. You feel good (fine)]

Austin: <Spanish> Si, si. </Spanish> [Trans: Yes, yes]

Wac ih a': (Ushering the group inside.) Let me get something hot for our weary travelers.

## Act XVI, Scene 2

[ Collecting a Few Things ]

Camera: At the table.

Wac ih a': (Bringing five cups to the table where Austin, Page, Savanna and Sam are seated.) Cocoa. (Placing cups in front of Austin and Page.) Coffee. (Placing a cup in front of Savanna and Sam.) And coffee. (Placing a cup on the table, in front of himself, as he sits down.)

Sam: (Addressing Wac ih a'.) First, the boys and I thank you very much for the hospitality and assistance you provided. I'm not sure what we would've done without you.

Wac ih a': That's what I'm here for. Happy I was able to help.

Austin: (Polite and respectful tone.) Wac ih a', do you know about the mine entrance?

Wac ih a': (Referencing the one through the pantry and the entrance via the cave on the other side of the mountain.) Both of them, yes. I also have a very old map of the hazards. Is there a problem?

Sam: No. We're trying to find some important documents to help with the title claim for the Creighton's land. We only have a week before our next court appearance. Austin seems to think he knows where the original property deeds were hidden. Victoria Creighton was going to have them sent to her after she got to Ohio. She figured it was too dangerous to carry 'em with her. She must have forgotten where she hid them. Do you mind if he takes a look in the mine?

Wac ih a': No of course not. I am just the caretaker. Everything, except my personal stuff, belongs to the Creighton's and their heirs. You are welcome to look wherever you'd like.

Austin: If I may be excused, it should only take a minute or two.

Wac ih a' looks at Sam approvingly.

Wac ih a': Page, why don't you go with him. You know the mine well.

Sam: Go ahead. (As Austin rises.) Please be careful. (As he pulls the chair back for Page, Austin looks at Sam with a 'Really! I know more about this mine than anyone alive', look. Sam, understanding the look.) I know. But, please.

Austin: (Sincerely stated.) Okay. I'll . . . (Looks at Page, who is now standing beside him, to include her.) We'll be extra careful.

Sam: Thanks. Oh, and maybe bring back a pick.

Austin: (In a very normal tone, the same as saying Okay.) Aye, captain.

Austin and Page leave for the mine. Camera follows them, but they walk much faster than the camera moves.

Page: <Spanish> Capitán? </Spanish>

Austin: <Spanish> Es una larga historia . . </Spanish> [Trans: It's a long story. . .]

Camera back to table.

Wac ih a': (Carefully inquiring about CPS issues.) No problems at the hospital?

Sam: The doctors did have a few questions about how he got his injuries, but it all got straightened out.

Wac ih a': I thought that might happen . I'm glad it did not get too complicated.

Sam: Yeah, me too.

Savanna: How is the battle over the title going?

Sam: The original soil samples they took, came back with old PCB's as expected. Once again, I'm sure, (Directed at Wac Ih a'), thanks to you, it also came back with high levels of fresh urine. (Savanna looks at Wac ih a', surprised and questioningly.) That prompted a re-sample.

Wac ih a': (Looking at Savanna, reassuring her.) It wasn't mine.

Sam: The new samples came back completely negative. State environmental said there was sufficient DNA in the first sample that they'll launch an investigation. Don't be surprised if state investigators stop by and ask a couple of questions.

Savanna: We'll expect them. Maybe the failed pollution claim will benefit the Creightons.

Sam: I think you're right. The judge will be more skeptical of any other 'evidence' against our claim. Of course, I'll keep you informed of any new developments. . . (Directed to Wac ih a'.) Changing topics: Do you remember, a few weeks ago, (Gesturing toward the front door.) when I first got here, you said something about that first step?

Wac ih a': (Thinking about it and shaking his head no.) Not specifically; however, we've been passing down a saying about that old stone step for generations, so it's likely I told you too. When someone first visits, we always said, "Watch your step, that first one can be somethin' special." It's kind of a tradition.

Sam: That's what I thought. When Austin get's back, you wouldn't mind taking a closer look at that step with us, would you?

Wac ih a': I've never given the step a second thought, but now you've piqued my interest. I would enjoy a little exploring. Oh, I almost forgot. (He gets up, goes to a small table and gets an envelope. He returns and hands it to Sam.) This was left in the front bedroom. (The envelope is addressed to Sam.)

Sam opens the envelope and empties the contents into his hand. It is the pocket knife with the squirrel inlay.

Austin and Page make their way back from the mine.

Austin: (Carrying a small pick and a saddlebag.) Right where I (Austin was going to say 'left them', but caught himself.) . . . Um . . . guessed they might be.

Savanna: (Surprised by the quick return.) That was fast!

Page: He went right to it, like he hid it himself.

Sam: (Killing two birds with one stone, he checks up on Austin and quickly changes topics.) You're not getting too tired are you?

Austin: No, sir. I'm feeling fine. (Handing the saddlebags to Sam. Sam looks at him to see if he is covering for feeling weak. Austin sees the look.) Really? I know better, now.

Sam and Austin have been using 'son' and 'dad' so much over the past two weeks, due to Austin's hospital stay and conversations in other public places, they've become fairly comfortable with the terms for each other.

Sam: Okay. (Reaching out, handing the knife to Austin.) Here, son. This is yours.

Austin: (Taking the knife and examining it. Very happy to receive it.) Thanks, Dad. I wondered where it was. (He turns to Page and shows her the knife with the squirrel inlay.) <Spanish> *Ardilla blanca.* </Spanish> [Trans. White Squirrel]

Sam: (Takes the documents out of the bag and looks them over. Looking at the back of the documents, there is a dark brown thumb print and a heavy smear. Also, there is the handwritten note that says “Time’s Up.” Sam carefully puts the documents back into the saddle bag.) Hopefully modern forensics will wrap this up quickly. (Handing the saddle bag back to Austin.) Why don’t you secure those on the ATV while Wac ih a’ and I get started on the step. (Austin hands him the pick. Page hands Wac ih a’ a pry bar.)

Austin: Yes, sir. (Austin and Page head to the ATV.)

Sam: Let’s see what’s so special about that step.

Savanna, Wac ih a’ and Sam get up from the table and cross to the door. Sam and Wac ih a’ go out the door. Savanna steps up to the window to watch from inside.

### Act XVI, Scene 3

[ Something Special, Indeed ]

Camera: Exterior of the cabin at the first step. Sam has dug around the top of the step, removing the snow and a few inches of dirt. The rock now seems to be a carved lid. Wac ih a’ and Sam, carefully, pry and lift the lid off of the stone box it covers. Inside is a jar containing a worn book and a note. The rest of the box is filled with gold coins and gold bars.

Sam: Wow!

Austin: This is a lot more than he left in the mine.

Page: (Excitedly.) It’s a treasure chest!

Wac ih a’: (Barely keeping a lid on his astonishment.) Very impressive.

Sam looks at Austin, then the jar. He gives Austin a nod. Austin reaches in and takes the jar. He opens it and removes the book and the note. Austin opens the note. While Austin is looking at the note, Ren's voice reads:

Dearest Austin,

I knew you would eventually find this box. In it, is my life's work of prospecting. I didn't prospect for the money, but for the challenge. I saved what I could over the years to keep a record of my achievement. You are the kindest hearted person I have ever met, so there is no one I would rather give it to than you. Whatever its tally, it is now yours. Do with it as you please.

Your friend,

Ren.

PS. The little book is what I could recall of my adventures, both before and after we met. I thought you might like to read it every now and then.



Austin,

I knew you would eventually find this box. In it is my life's work of prospecting. I didn't prospect for the money, but for the challenge. I saved what I could over the years to keep a record of my achievement. You are the biggest hearted person I have ever met, so there is no one I would rather give it to than you. Whatever it's tally, it is now yours. Do with it as you please.

Your friend,  
Ren.

PS. The little book is what I could recall of my adventures, both before and after we met. I thought you might like to read it every now and

Sam: Well, what's it say?

Austin: [\(Paraphrasing.\)](#) It is a note from the prospector that lived here a long time ago. Ren left this to [\(Austin started to say 'me' but morphed it into 'my'.\)](#) me>y. . umm . . great, great, uncle.

Sam: [\(Sam knows that the great, great uncle is actually Austin. Also, looking at Austin, he knows that there is more to the note that Austin is keeping to himself. Sensing that the mood may get somber if the topic is pressed much more, Sam tries to get Austin focused on the gold.\)](#) Wow! He really was a great prospector. What do you think we should do with all this?

Austin: I'm not really sure. It looks like a lot.

Sam: We'd better just keep this quiet for a bit. It obviously belongs to your great, great uncle's heirs, meaning us, but let's not complicate the land case, unnecessarily.

Wac ih a': What a step. It certainly was something special.

[Austin tugs on Sam's coat to get his attention. Sam turns so Austin can whisper in his ear.](#)

Sam: [\(Addressing Wac ih a'. Apologizing for the whispering.\)](#) Sorry. [\(Speaking in a formal tone.\)](#) Austin just reminded me about a family discussion we had earlier, that involves you and your family. We'd like you to know, should we win the case, that you're welcome to stay. No, actually, we are hoping you'll stay, . . for as long as you would like.

[As the dronecam rises from the scene, Austin hands a gold bar to Page, so she can feel the weight.](#)

## End of Act XVI

[To Act XV](#)

[To Act XVII](#)