

SMOKE
Draft Four

Written by

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for THE IMPACT

(Somewhere in Act II or III)

NOTE to FILM-MAKERS:

Please feel free to adapt 'Smoke' to represent any two feuding individuals living side by side in any country with tensions resulting from treatment of indigenous peoples.

INT. CLAPBOARD SHACK, OFF-RESERVATION SCRUBLAND - DAY

Maps and yellowed news cuttings cover the wall: *Feuding neighbour sets fire to Sacred Plant; No Smoke without Fire says John Brodie; Activist Chetan Greenwood says he'll never give up his rights!* A rifle broods in a dark corner.

In a slash of light a knife-blade glimmers. Deep-set dark eyes scrutinise the job in hand. Arthritic fingers twist a rifle-cleaning rod, lash thin rope. Smoke spirals to the rafters.

EXT/INT. LONELY TRACK/FARM TRUCK (MOVING) - DAY

A farm truck hurtles by. A dust cloud follows.

Inside the truck, a cowboy hat and grizzled jaw, silhouetted against an orange sky. A handgun and a pack of Prince Albert Tobacco bounce about in the footwell.

The truck reaches a fork. Screeches to a stop. Twin scrawled signs right and left: *Keep Out. Trespassers WILL be shot!* Reverses, turn left. Bumps off down the dirt track.

INT/EXT. CLAPBOARD SHACK, OFF-RESERVATION SCRUBLAND - DAY

CHETAN GREENWOOD, Native American, 80s, features seamed like a rock-face, squints past us at the red sun. Grinds out his roll-up out on the stoop. Goes back in, shuts the door.

Limps to a rickety table, fingers a long hide pouch before sitting. His opponent, ATIAN, 70s, deals dog-eared playing cards. Chetan picks up his hand.

DOG rests her nose on Chetan's battered slippers. Chetan pours slugs of whisky in glasses. Pats his pockets.

CHETAN

Smokes. Damn. I'm fresh out.

ATIAN

Still set on dying young then?

(beat)

When you're good and ready, I s'pose? Like everythin' else.

They study each other. Chetan lays down a card. Sniffs the air. The lamp SPATTERS. Dog's head goes up, ears pricked.

A beat later the truck arrives with a ROAR, pulls up outside, gravel flying. Dog leaps up BARKING.