

INHERITANCE

a pick-the-path experience

by Daniel Arnold, Darrell Dennis, and Medina Hahn

SCRIPT SAMPLE

CHARACTERS

FRANK, 40s, Secwepemc

ABBEY, 30s, settler / immigrant descent

NOAH, 30s, settler descent

THE HOST (voice)

DANNY, 60s, Abbey's Dad

RAIN, Frank's daughter

SUMMARY OF EVENTS SO FAR:

Frank, a Secwepemc man, is butchering a rabbit for his dinner in a remote house.

Abbey and Noah, a non-Indigenous couple from the city, arrive on a boat. They ask Frank what he's doing in her Dad's house, and Frank says her Dad said he could stay there while he's gone.

Abbey attempts to verify this, but the landline is missing. And there is no cell service out here ...

Abbey re-enters slowly. She has a cell phone in her hand.

ABBEY My Dad's phone is here.

NOAH Oh shit. You're *sure* it's his?

ABBEY Yes, I bought it for him.

NOAH Why would he leave it here?

Abbey looks to Frank.

ABBEY Has this been here the entire time?

FRANK Where was it?

ABBEY On his dresser.

FRANK (*shrugs*) I just work for the guy. I don't go into his bedroom.

Beat. She looks at where the landline should be. So does Noah.

NOAH ... Huh. Well shit.

Abbey looks at Frank, then around the house. Decides:

ABBEY (*to Frank, very nicely*) Okay listen uh ... I don't mean to ... be rude or ... obviously I'm a little freaked out ... and seeing as how *we're* here now, could we maybe ask that maybe you ... ?

(waits for Frank to offer, but he doesn't, so)

Well that maybe *we* could stay here now?

FRANK Of course yeah, like I said, more the merrier.

Upbeat, Frank leaves back to the kitchen.

Oh but I've been staying in the orange room upstairs, that's not your room is it?
Cuz I can move into another room if you need.

Abbey looks to Noah for help. But Noah shrugs, "It's not really my place, is it?"

Abbey goes to the RIFLE by the fireplace, goes to pick it up – but Noah reacts! So she leaves it there – but within arm's reach.

Then calls to Frank:

ABBEY No I was thinking like ... it would be good if we could be here ... alone?

(beat)

Like, do you have anywhere else you could go?

After a beat, Frank slowly re-enters. No longer in a good mood.

FRANK Seriously?

ABBEY I'm sorry, / I just --

FRANK I'm here cuz the walls of my house are covered in mold. Actually most of the houses on my reserve are covered in mold, so ... kinda between places.

ABBEY ... We could - give you some money for a hotel or something?

FRANK Listen, I understand it freaks you out to have an Indian around --

NOAH Hey / whoa whoa --

ABBEY That has nothing to do with / what I'm-

FRANK But last I checked this wasn't *your* house. It's your Dad's. And he said I should stay here, so that's what I'm gonna do. So you can either take your money and go back to a hotel yourself, and stop squatting on my land. Or you can, you know, stay here and we can like all be friends maybe.

ABBEY ... *Your* land?

FRANK If you wanna talk about who should leave, I'd like to talk about that.

NOAH Ummmmmmmm --

THE HOST CHOICE-POINT:

Noah is looking at a bloodstain on the floor ...

- A. Should Noah confront Frank about it, privately? [Go to [Scene 2B](#)]
- B. Should Abbey see the stain, too? [Go to [Scene 2C](#)]
- C. Should Frank take their money and run? [Go to [Scene 2A](#)]

Scene 2A

... Frank takes their money and runs

Replay the last few moments ...

FRANK **So you can either take your money and go back to a hotel yourself, and stop squatting on my land. Or you can, you know, stay here and we can like all be friends maybe.**

ABBEY **... *Your* land?**

FRANK **If you wanna talk about who should leave, I'd like to talk about that.**

NOAH **Ummmmmmmm – maybe we *should* go, babe.**

ABBEY **This is my house.**

NOAH **Yeah. But – no one wants, like, blood – bad – blood. Anywhere. On the – anywhere.**

ABBEY **What?**

NOAH **Okay man. She's pretty stubborn. She did grow up in this house. And we really did plan on having some – alone time here. So seriously we don't want to put you out, we'll give you some money for a hotel. Seriously.**

Babe, you got any cash?

ABBEY **Uh ...**

NOAH **Here, here's 20-40-60-80 ...**

ABBEY **I've got 40 ...**

NOAH **There, 120. How much was our room again?**

ABBEY **Here. (*hands Frank the rest of Noah's money*)**

NOAH **Yeah uh, yeah ... take it, man. We don't want to put you out.**

Frank stares at them. Then at their money.

[SCENE CONTINUES ...]

Scene 2B

... Noah confronts Frank about it, privately

Replay the last few moments ...

FRANK **So you can either take your money and go back to a hotel yourself, and stop squatting on my land. Or you can, you know, stay here and we can like all be friends maybe.**

ABBEY **... *Your* land?**

FRANK **If you wanna talk about who should leave, I'd like to talk about that.**

NOAH **Ummmmmmmm – maybe we *should* go, babe.**

ABBEY **This is my house.**

NOAH **Yeah. But – No one wants, like, blood – bad – blood. Anywhere. On the – anywhere.**

ABBEY **What?**

NOAH **Hey Frank, could we maybe uh. Talk this blood. Out. Man to man?**

FRANK **Excuse me?**

NOAH **Maybe Abbey you can leave, so me and Frank can deal with this – man to man.**

ABBEY **Now *you're* asking me to leave?**

NOAH **Abbey! Just go ... blow off some steam, okay? Go look at your Dad's phone, check his call history and stuff. Look around outside, see what you can see.**

ABBEY **See what I can -- ??**

NOAH **You're always asking me to 'man up' so -- let me handle this! Man to man.**

FRANK **Is Drummer Boy saying he wants to fight me? I really don't get what he's saying.**

ABBEY **That makes two of us.**

NOAH **Just -- ! Give us a second alone, Abbey! How hard can that be?**

ABBEY **... You're acting very weird.**

She leaves. Noah watches her go, then slowly ambles over, closer to the rifle ...

[SCENE CONTINUES]

Scene 2C

... Abbey sees the stain, too

Replay the last few moments ...

FRANK **So you can either take your money and go back to a hotel yourself, and stop squatting on my land. Or you can, you know, stay here and we can like all be friends maybe.**

ABBEY **... *Your* land?**

FRANK **If you wanna talk about who should leave, I'd like to talk about that.**

NOAH **Ummmmmmmm – maybe we *should* go, babe.**

ABBEY **This is my house.**

NOAH **Yeah. But – No one wants, like, blood – bad – blood. Anywhere. On the – anywhere.**

ABBEY **What?**

NOAH **Hey Frank ... could you ... step off ... for a bit ... and let ... me and uhhh Uhhh -**

ABBEY **Abbey.**

NOAH **Yeah, can you ... let us chit ... chat?**

FRANK **Is he having a stroke?**

ABBEY **I don't know.**

NOAH **Just -- ! Can you give us a second ... to discuss this, please?**

FRANK **So now you're asking me to leave too?**

ABBEY **(to Frank) What the Hell is that?**

Abbey has seen Noah trying NOT to look at the bloodstain - but doing a bad job of it.

ABBEY **... Hey. Frank. What is that.**

NOAH **Okay I think we can remain calm. Everybody! We can remain calm!! I mean, it looks like – blood, but maybe it's not. Maybe it's ... not?**

FRANK **(a beat, looking at it) Oh yeah. That's blood.**

[SCENE CONTINUES ... END OF SAMPLE]