SCENE 2 - NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In the corridor. It is Val’s first day in her new position as Program Director for the youth corrections facility. At the upstage end of a long corridor are a set of double doors with windows of reinforced glass. We hear a Pshshsht sound – the sound of a door unlocking. Val and Jim, joined by Eileen come through the doors into the corridor. Through the open door we catch a glimpse of others heading off in various directions. They are coming from the morning briefing where all administrators and staff assemble to discuss the day’s goings on at the Centre: individual cases, issues, concerns, upcoming activities, etc. Val and Jim are both wearing corrections staff uniforms – button up shirts, black pants, black boots. They wear belts with two way radios on their hips. Val is carrying a bag over her shoulder and an armload of papers. Eileen is dressed in regular clothes. They are in mid-conversation as they enter the corridor together. The beginning of the conversation takes place just inside the doors.

JIM

(Calling out to others behind him also departing the meeting – Jim’s farewell greeting) Watch your back. (Then speaking to Val) Police Chief Robertson’s daughter, eh? Can’t believe it.

VAL

Ummm. Did you know him?

JIM

No . . . No, before my time. But everyone speaks real highly of him.

EILEEN

I shook his hand once.

JIM

Good man.

VAL

(Ambivalent) Ya. Good man.
JIM

(Ready to head off to elsewhere) Well then. Have a good first day. Let me know if there’s anything you need. (Addressing Eileen matter-of-factly) How’s the Rez? (With a little laugh and a gesture) Managing to duck the bullets? Guess we’ll be seeing more of you. (As he begins to leave) Watch your back. (Calling to Val) Best to button up, eh? (Indicating the button at the collar of Val’s shirt which is undone).

Jim motions to a person at a desk on the other side of the doors – a request for the door to be unlocked. Val immediately reaches for the top button of her shirt and tries to do it up with her one free hand.

VAL

Oh ya.

A Pshshsht sound and Jim exits through one of the doors leaving Val and Eileen alone in the corridor.

EILEEN

Wats’tagâc (i.e. “Oh my god” in Cree) Can you believe that? Duck the bullets?

VAL

(Still struggling with the button) Sorry. That was ignorant, wasn’t it?

EILEEN

Never mind. Working here you need a thick skin.

VAL

You shouldn’t have to put up with that.

Val puts her bag and armload of papers down to attend to the button with both hands.

EILEEN

I don’t think you need to worry about the button.

VAL

He’s got a point (She finally gets the button done up).