

ECHO THEATRE

Writing Workshop Examples

Keshi, Colin, and Sandra navigate identity, cultural expectations, and personal struggles in a candid conversation. Humor and tension weave through their reflections, revealing the complexities of contemporary Indigenous life.

KESHI'S REFLECTION ON WALKING BETWEEN WORLDS:

I'm tired of having to tell people that when it comes down to the line, I have to walk in both worlds. I'm constantly at odds with myself, it's a contradiction to have to answer to them and then to have to manage the expectations of those I am serving. Then throw into the mix that my needs fit in there somewhere, too. I need to pay my rent, I need to make a name for myself but what I can't tell them, without speaking for hours of course, is how I do it all for us. For them. For them who are yet to come. For those who never made it home, those who died from suicide, and I consider suicide drinking yourself to death, or mixing drugs and alcohol.

SANDRA'S OBSERVATION ON COMMUNICATION ACROSS CULTURES:

Sandra: Well of course you can't tell her that, because she doesn't speak to you anymore.

Keshi: I'm okay with that, I mean I did feel that almost everything I shared meant another one-up on my accomplishments. I've since learned that sometimes, when some adults seem to "one-up" you, they're simply relating.

Sandra: Yes, I think most of us try to see it that way. I think white people see it as a way to one-up or a way to derail the conversation.

KESHI AND COLIN ON AMBIGUITY AND SURVIVAL:

Keshi: I'm okay with being the villain in some peoples' stories. We can't all be the hero all the time. No one was wrong in this case. Well, explicitly anyway.

Colin: Yeah – and it could just be a case of bruised ego, or a competition. We have no right to guess. How can we even know what she was thinking? Besides, some people think one way and then act another. Out of necessity or out of survival, who the hell knows.

He narrows in on a baby sitting across from them and starts making faces at the baby who starts cooing back at his face.

Keshi: Colin, you goof. You're so good with kids.

KESHI'S FRUSTRATION WITH COLIN'S FLIPPANT ATTITUDE TOWARD WOMEN

Seriously Colin, you've mentioned 3 women in one breath. What the hell is the point? ... Fucking smarten up man, women aren't candy for your god damn taking. I swear to god you led me on when we first met, you're lucky I ignored your stupid clumsy attempts at flirting with me. But I remember you leaving just enough room for me to question what it was exactly that you were doing, asshole.