

Scene 1

The Barren:

Innu are packing belongings, tearing down tents. They are wearing tradition costumes mixed with very little Western clothing. Wolverine appears and sidles up to Great Mother.

Wolverine: Great Mother, where are our people going?

Great Mother: Davis Inlet, Wolverine, so none of your mischief.

Wolverine: But this is the wrong time of year to go to Davis Inlet - why do we go now?

Great Mother: The White Man's government has given us land in Davis Inlet.

Wolverine: (more puzzled): But how can he give you what is already yours?

Great Mother: The Government has given our people shelters and we will no longer have to live off the land.

Wolverine: But you have shelters here. Who will keep me company?

Great Mother: You will have to amuse yourself Wolverine, we are to be assimilated in Davis.

Wolverine: Ass-what?

Great Mother: You would not understand Wolverine. It is the way of man.

Wolverine: Man? The who is Government? White Man? Innu? How do they give you what is already yours? I think there is more mischief in this talk than I have ever created. I do not think I like ASS-imitation.

Great Mother: (hangs head exhausted/worried) It is a new world Wolverine and we must try to assimilate.

Wolverine: Again with the ass-word. I do not think I like this word. Once I had scabs on my butt and when I scratched them on a rock they turned to seashells and spoke.

Great Mother (raises head): Enough of your foolishness Wolverine, we must go.

Great Mother follows her people into the shadows, Wolverine stays behind sadly shaking his head.

Scene 2

Outside a shack in Davis. Very shabby, mess everywhere, empty liquor bottles, people passed out. The clothing is more Western now. Great Mother is stooped and tired but still in traditional garb. She looks older more unkempt. Wolverine sidles up beside her.

Wolverine: Great Mother, what has happened to our people?

Great Mother: They have taken the worst of the White Man's ways and made those their own.

Wolverine: All of our people?

Great Mother: Not all, but too many of them.

Wolverine: We must get them back to the Barren! This is bad mischief.

Great Mother: We cannot go now. Too many have lost the Innu ways. They are too weak or too ill. Many would not survive the Innu way now.

Wolverine: Well they are not surviving ASS-im-i-la-tion. I am not liking ASS-im-i-la-tion. Where is the running water?

Great Mother: There is not enough water here for us all. What we have comes out of taps in the shacks.

Wolverine: These white-man houses look wrong for my Innu. I will not be able to find them.

Great Mother: Many are lost, to more than just you Wolverine

Great Mother enters the shack - flap is pulled up to reveal squalor a drunken woman passed out on the kitchen table with an empty booze bottle in front of her. A filthy baby softly weeps in a high-chair. Centre for-ground is a white 5 gallon bucket.

Wolverine: There is no magic in this place. *(Hangs his head)* The White Man has let it die.

Great Mother: The White Man did not know the magic lived. He thinks he helps by giving us this place. Allowing us to be like him. He gave us these buildings these "things."

Wolverine (grabbing the white bucket): What are these gifts for that they must cost so much?

Great Mother: That is where we go to the bathroom.

Wolverine (incredulously): In the shelter?

Great Mother: Yes, it is the White Man's way.

Wolverine: I think the White Man's ways are full of shit