

Wind of Night

by

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Cast of Characters

HENDRA:

Teens

MARCUS:

40's

Place
Woods

Time
Night

Setting: The play takes place inside the woods.

At Rise: The play opens up with both Hendra and Marcus side by side in their own sleeping bags. There may be a few pots and pans around the atmosphere, with a small fire still burning and an assortment of duffle bags and backpacks.

MARCUS: Had this dream...was walking through some kind of field. When I got to the clearing I saw thousands of warriors across a river in the not so far off distance...all standing at attention in a line that looked like it went on for miles. I loved it. I couldn't wait to get in there and fight. I looked behind me and I realized I was leading an army of warriors of my own. Again, thousands of them, swords, shields, armor, the whole nine. I spoke out in some language that was like a growl in the wind of night. Drew my sword and led the charge. Next thing I know I was in the middle of battle, charging into as many men as I could and not giving a damn. This went on for what felt like an eternity, but I wasn't tired, I was full of energy that wouldn't quit. I kept on. Swinging my sword at all these violent looking faces, until I reached their leader. Some chief on a horse...and he was mine. I ran for him and dove through the air and pierced my sword through his chest. It was over. I took over. And I didn't give in to what stood in my way. It was mine and I took it. Believe that.

HENDRA: Why do you always tell me violent dreams?

MARCUS: Cause you're a warrior, like your daddy.

HENDRA: You ain't no damn warrior.

MARCUS: Sure am.

HENDRA: Dreams don't count.

MARCUS: These aren't just dreams, they are memories of my past.

HENDRA: How you gonna say they memories of your past, Daddy?

MARCUS: I feel them. They feel true to me. Not like regular dreams. I know the difference between a dream and a memory. These are memories.

HENDRA: Make no sense.

MARCUS: Make complete sense. I came back. See? I came back again to this new life, for whatever reason, to do something and I'm here now and I'm tryin' to take care of you and show you the way.

HENDRA: What way is that? Robbing and hustling?

MARCUS: Well now, that's on the surface of things. If you look deeper, there is a ton of value you shouldn't miss.

HENDRA: What value? We travel from lousy motel to lousy motel, day after day. Always running from someone or something. Like that damn bear, almost took my head off.

MARCUS: Now I stopped that bear.

HENDRA: We got lucky.

MARCUS: Shot my shotgun right off. Scared 'em stiff!

HENDRA: Cause we were sleeping in the woods right next to his damn hibernation spot or whatever you call those things where the bear sleeps in.

MARCUS: Hibernation.

HENDRA: Whatever.

MARCUS: Why you ain't happy?

HENDRA: Don't you want a real life?

MARCUS: What's a real life?

HENDRA: Having a house, letting me go to school, don't you want a real job, with real money?

MARCUS: We have real money.

HENDRA: We don't earn it Daddy.

MARCUS: Yes, we do. We put a lot of hard work into our money.

HENDRA: You don't understand.

MARCUS: What's there to understand darlin', we have FREEDOM. Ain't that what you wanted? Always complaining about school, how your teachers suck and the other kids are all assholes, well, you've been granted your wish.

HENDRA: I didn't think that this life we be livin' is the way things would be...I miss Mom. If Mom were here none of this would have happened. We probably would have moved or something but we wouldn't be out hustlin'. Aren't you tired of it?

MARCUS: The great thing about your Momma is that she always went with the flow. She was real cool like that.

HENDRA: You sayin' my Momma would have agreed to this?

MARCUS: Not exactly. But she would have met me halfway.

HENDRA: And what is halfway with you anyways? You never asked me about anything.

MARCUS: I'm your father, why I gotta ask?

HENDRA: Cause I'm a person.

MARCUS: Oh boy.

HENDRA: What?

MARCUS (laughing): Oh, boy, oh boy.

HENDRA: WHAT?!

MARCUS: You growin' up. You startin' to think for yourself. Ain't nothin' wrong with that. Makes me happy to see. I'm glad. But you gotta trust me. I only have your best interest. Tell you what...from now on...I'll be sure to get your approval on things before I make a final decision. Okay? I'll check in with you.

HENDRA: That won't make no difference.

MARCUS: Why not?

HENDRA: Cause you're only gonna give me options that best suit your plan. You ain't never gonna include me in the development of any plan.

MARCUS: Whew! You are as smart as a whistle!

HENDRA (smiling): I am.

MARCUS: Can't let a mind like yours go to waste, can we?

HENDRA: Nope.

MARCUS: Alright then. I will be sure to include you in any new developments. Deal?

HENDRA: No deal.

MARCUS: Why no deal?

HENDRA: I have some of my own ideas you know. I want some of my own ideas to be included in your schemes.

MARCUS: Okay, okay, I see where we going with this...DEAL. I agree to it. From now on, we make our own schemes together, but I still have final say.

HENDRA: Alright.

MARCUS: But I'm willing to hear you out at all times.

HENDRA: Good. Works for me.

MARCUS: And what may I ask is your latest concept?

HENDRA: That's easy.

MARCUS: Yeah?

HENDRA: We need to start hustling pool games. You have the slickest shot I ever saw. Not that I've seen much, but you're really really good at sinking them balls in those pockets.

MARCUS: Hmmm. Been playing since I was a kid.

HENDRA: That's why you have a skill worth exploiting.

MARCUS: DO I?

HENDRA: You do. Could travel around the country making some serious scratch.

MARCUS: You don't say.

HENDRA: Common sense, Pops. We could probably save up so much dough that we can buy us a house on the prairie.

MARCUS: That sounds nice.

HENDRA: Does it?

MARCUS: I can imagine it.

HENDRA: Can you?

MARCUS: Of course I can...yeah...what I wanted to do with your mother. We always used to talk about buying our own home and raising you right. I'm sure she'd be pretty sore at me for giving you such a lousy life as you put it, but you're right. This is a bum's errand. You definitely deserve more. Here I am trying to make you some kind of warrior in life, so you can face any situation head on without fear because I know your potential...I do...and I want you to know your own potential, the things you're capable of achieving, sky's the limit. Hell, go beyond the sky if you want, just know you can do anything you set your mind to, that's all.

HENDRA: I know you're doing what you can, Dad.

MARCUS: I'm a shit father, I must admit it. I shouldn't have taken you off society's trail. You should be in a decent school with kids your own age, getting an education and focusing on your future. Look what I done.

HENDRA: Not as bad as all that.

MARCUS: Eh, don't make excuses for me cause I'm your paw.

HENDRA: I like living this life. I just want us to get our shit together is all. Have some stability. What am I gonna do at school anyways? Always hated it. Still having nightmares about it, if you want to know the truth. I just don't wanna be sleepin' in no woods, in the cold. I don't wanna be hungry all the time. I'd like us to save money and live somewhere permanent. I can get a job and one day I'll take care of you.

MARCUS: I don't deserve such a daughter as you.

HENDRA: We in this together. We need to figure it out.

MARCUS: I got this guy named Lucas, he's a good dude, known him a long time. He owns a string of bars. Got pool tables. Maybe I could start running along them for some quick cash and start building us up from there. What ya think?

HENDRA: I think that's clever.

MARCUS: Do you?

HENDRA: I do. I think we are on the verge of a new beginning.

MARCUS: Hell yeah!

HENDRA: Hell yeah!

MARCUS: Alright good. Let's get some sleep. Tomorrow morning, we make our way over to Lucas and we strike a deal with him.

HENDRA: Okay, paw.

MARCUS: Anything for my baby girl.

HENDRA: Thanks, paw.

MARCUS: Lights out.

HENDRA: Lights out.

END OF PLAY