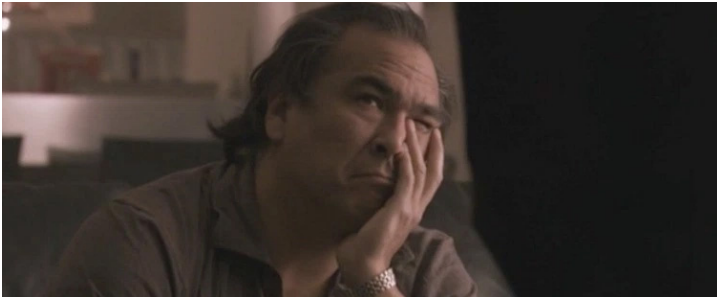


BLACKSTONE, FEATURED

BLACKSTONE RETURNS SEEKING HAPPINESS

NOVEMBER 4, 2015 - GREG DAVID



It's kind of ironic that the focus of Tuesday's Blackstone return dealt with happiness. APTN's drama, ending after this final fifth season, hasn't featured a lot of lightness or positivity. Instead, it's reflected the real issues affecting Native Canadians, from alcoholism and drug use to sexual abuse and murder. So, to hear the word happy even uttered was a little strange.

And yet there it was, used by Gail, the one person on Blackstone whose life is anything but happy. Wendy was kidnapped by Darrien and shows no signs of returning her, throwing Gail and Leona's lives into disarray. Wilma is dying, and Gail is engaged in a daily battle with the bottle. But as Dr. Crowshoe suggested, discovering what makes Gail happy is her key to getting better. That included getting up in front of those at the band office and apologizing for her sins of the past.

Happiness was a big part of "Beginning of the End" for every major character, albeit in subtle ways. It seems like the only thing that will make Andy happy is reclaiming the chieftom from Victor. Andy loves power and everything that comes with it—money and women—and blames Victor for Debbie's death and Alan's injury. But to become happy, Andy is going to make desperate, rash decisions to get there and I worry things will end badly. Nothing good can come from digging up a buried body. Daryl, meanwhile, is happy just running a successful club. If only things were as simple for others.

I know Darrien is a monster to most, but his most tender moments on Tuesday were reserved for his quiet time with Wendy. He may puff himself up like a tough guy, but Darrien clearly wants to connect with his daughter. I'm not sure kidnapping her was the right decision, but it's where his brain went first. And then there was that little cough; clearly things aren't right in Darrien's lungs.

As for Victor, well ... I'm sure he'd be happy if someone finds him before he dies out there in the forest.

Blackstone airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET on APTN.