

“Kind Hearted Woman” on NET Television Follows Woman in Recovery

In the two-part series, “Kind Hearted Woman,” acclaimed filmmaker David Sutherland tells the story of a young Oglala Sioux woman as she struggles to raise her two children, further her education and heal herself from the wounds of sexual abuse she suffered as a child. The unforgettable portrait, “Kind Hearted Woman” airs Monday and Tuesday, April 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. CT on NET1/HD.

Viewers first meet Robin Charboneau as she trudges across North Dakota’s Spirit Lake Reservation in minus-eight-degree weather, returning home after a 20-day stay in rehabilitation. “Now I’m sober, and I’m really, really scared I’m going to start drinking again,” she says. The series follows Charboneau as she confronts the aftereffects of the sexual abuse she suffered as a child and fights to keep her family together through a custody battle with her ex-husband over their two children, all while pursuing her dream of a college degree and a career as a social worker.

“As in my other films profiling rural poverty,” says Sutherland (the filmmaker known for “The Farmer’s Wife” and “Country Boys”) “in ‘Kind Hearted Woman,’ I was trying to reach out to another forgotten corner of the American landscape, this time to put a face on a Native family so that we could see them close-up with all the detail that illuminates the rich reality of their lives.”

When Charboneau’s daughter reveals that her father has sexually abused her, echoing her own childhood abuse, it ignites both emotional turmoil and a dramatic criminal trial in federal court, during which the daughter will have to testify against her father. The ex-husband is convicted, and Charboneau regains custody of her children and moves to International Falls, Minnesota, for a fresh start.

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