

## **Abrupt**

"You would expect that Sweetgrass, which is a nice feeling... would be on the Canadian side, and that Coutts, which sounds abrupt... would be... American."

Sudden or unexpected.

## **Blackfoot**

"You can still see the mountain from here," my mother told Letitia in Blackfoot."

A North American tribe of Indian people from Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

## **Border**

"Laetitia packed her things, and we headed for the border."

Line that separate one country, state, province, etc., from another.

## **Brochure**

"He had some brochures on Salt Lake and some maps, and every so often the two of them would spread them out on the table."

A small book or magazine containing pictures and information about a product or place.

## **Citizenship**

"Everyone who crosses our border has to declare their citizenship. Even Americans. It helps us keep track of the visitors we get from the various countries."

The position or status of being a citizen of a particular country.

## **Consist**

"Coutts was on the Canadian side and consisted of the convenience store and gas station, the museum that was closed and boarded up, and a motel."

To be composed or made up of.

## **Coyote**

"Coyote went fishing, one day. That's how it all started". We sat out under the stars that night, and my mother told me all sorts of stories."

A small wild animal that is related to dogs and wolves and that lives in North America.

## **Declare**

"Everyone who crosses our border has to declare their citizenship. Even Americans. It helps us keep track of the visitors we get from the various countries."

To say or state (something) in an official or public way.

## Duty-free

"Most of that day, we wandered around the duty-free store, which wasn't very large."

Free of customs duty or tax on imported or exported goods.

## Envelope

"When Laetitia and Lester broke up, Lester took his brochures and maps with him, so Laetitia wrote to someone in Salt Lake City, and... got a big envelope."

A flat paper container, as for a letter or thin package.

## Faucet

"There wasn't much food left and that was a problem, but we had lots of water as there was a faucet at the side of the duty-free shop."

A device that allows you to turn the flow of water on and off.

## Firearm

"Any tobacco, liquor, or firearms?"

Small gun.

## Flinch

"Nothing but blondes in the whole state." Whenever he said that, Laetitia would slug him on his shoulder hard enough to make him flinch."

To move suddenly because you are afraid of being hit or hurt.

## Franchise

"Salt Lake City is the home of one of the newest professional basketball franchises, the Utah Jazz."

A team that is a member of a professional sports league.

## Gateway

"Salt Lake City is the gateway to some of the world's most magnificent skiing."

A passage into or out of a place or condition.

## Holster

"The border guard was an old guy. As he walked to the car, he swayed from side to side, his feet set wide apart, the holster on his hip pitching up and down."

A leather or fabric case for carrying a firearm on the person (as on the hip).

## Inconvenience

"The second night in the car was not as much fun as the first, but my mother seemed in good spirits, and, all in all, it was as much an adventure as an inconvenience."

Something that causes trouble or problems.

## Inspiration

"Mel was a funny guy. He took the hat and blew his nose and told my mother that she was an inspiration to us all."

A person, place, experience, that makes someone want to do or create something.

## Justice

"Mel came over and gave us a bag of peanut brittle and told us that justice was a damn hard thing to get, but that we shouldn't give up."

The process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals.

## Liquor

"Between the two borders was a duty free shop where you could buy cigarettes and liquor and flags."

An alcoholic drink.

## Lousy

"This is real lousy coffee."

Bad or deserving of disgust or contempt.

## Magnificent

"Salt Lake City is the gateway to some of the world's most magnificent skiing."

Very beautiful or impressive.

## Minor

"I told Stella that we were Blackfoot and Canadian; but she said that that didn't count because I was a minor."

A person who is not yet old enough to have the rights of an adult.

## Postcard

"We got postcards from Laetitia regular, and, if she wasn't spreading jelly on the truth, she was happy."

A card for sending a message by mail without an envelope; has a picture on one side.

## Prairie

"Sweetgrass was on the American side, but all you could see was the overpass that arched across the highway and disappeared into the prairies."

A large, mostly flat area of land that has few trees and is covered in grasses.

## Pride

"Pride is a good thing to have, you know. Laetitia had a lot of pride, and so did my mother. I figured that someday, I'd have it, too."

A feeling that you respect yourself and deserve to be respected by other people.

## Reserve

"We left the reserve in the morning and drove until we got to Coutts."

An area of land set aside especially (in the US and Canada) for US or Canadian Indians.

## Scramble

"My mother rolled the car forward, and the television people had to scramble out of the way."

To move or climb over something quickly.

## Stiffen

"Most of the postcards said we should come down and see the city, but whenever I mentioned this, my mother would stiffen up."

To become suddenly tense, rigid, or taut, as in bracing oneself.

## Strand

"The wind had come up, and it blew Laetitia's hair across her face. Mom reached out and pulled the strands out of Laetitia's eyes, and Laetitia let her."

Something long or twisted like a rope.

## Sway

"The border guard was an old guy. As he walked to the car, he swayed from side to side, his feet set wide apart, the holster on his hip pitching up and down."

To swing slowly and rhythmically back and forth from a base or pivot.

## Technicality

"It's a legal technicality, that's all."

A small detail in a rule, law, etc., and especially one that forces an unwanted result.

## **Temple**

"That's the temple. It's right downtown. You got to have a pass to get in."

A building for religious worship.

## **Tobacco**

"Any fire or tobacco?"

Products (such as cigars or cigarettes) that are made from tobacco.

## **Trot**

"The television vans began to arrive, and guys in suits and women in dresses came trotting over to us, dragging microphones and cameras and lights behind them."

To move quickly.

## **Wander**

"I wandered back to the car."

To walk or move usually without having a particular purpose or direction.