

When I was a kid, I read books that mostly portrayed Native Americans as peaceful, but primitive. In the books I read, they were always treated as a historical subject, out of touch with modern times. I learned later that that wasn't still the case, but it was always hard for me to imagine them in modern society. The portrayal of Native Americans as primitive people is a hyperreality that Smoke Signals challenged. Smoke Signals portrayed Native Americans as modern people, driving cars and wearing clothes and using technology that you would expect to see in the world today. Smoke Signals portrayed them as people in the same way we all are people, and it showed that Native culture and "modern" culture can easily coexist.