

## CHAPTER FIVE THE EARTH IS ROUND

An archival library. Somewhere in the United States. 2015.

*[BRUNO, the janitor, enters sweeping USL. Two STACKER/FILERS (Max/Josh) and two interns MARCO and TUCKTUCK bring in library tables with (lamps?), amid sweeping. Exit. BRUNO sweeps out DSL, back in USL. Opens shade on large office window. Reveal TAMARA, head librarian, eating a snack. BRUNO exits. Looks at watch — "Oh"! Break time is over. She pushes cart of books out of office and into library. As TAMARA goes to Book Deposit Window, CHERRIS enters clicking pen. TAMARA drops off books. CHERRIS stamps each book and sends them into the shoot.]*

TAMARA

Morn, morn.

CHERRIS

Hey Tam, Tam.

TAMARA

How's it go, go?

CHERRIS

Fine, fine.

TAMARA

Around the World in Eighty Days. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea. Boring. The Iliad. That's long one. The Odyssey — abridged, cheater. A Tale of Two Cities — ooo that's a good one. "It was the best of times", it was...late.

*[TAMARA pushes cart SR, encounter with BRUNO. Exits DR, enters UR. Turns on lamps. Gooses BRUNO. Goes into office. Exit BRUNO SR. Enter GENE with shopping cart. Sneezes a cloud of dust. Enter MAN with large book. Goes to window.]*

MAN

It's a return.

*[Book doesn't fit through window. Opens book, slides it into window slot. Finds slip of paper inside book. Reads it.]*

"Turn round O earth, again, again.  
For I am but the now of then.  
And all that came before, before,  
Here liveth on in me."

Huh. Sorry it's late. Where can I find the head libraria...?

*[CHERRIS has left. MAN looks for librarian. Business between MAN DS, and TAMARA in office, GENE in between. TAMARA discovers MAN comes out of office. MAN startled at discovering GENE.]*

TAMARA

That's just Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir. But we just call her Gene. Hi Gene. She's a little (ooohoo) but, harmless.

*[GENE madly shakes her cart. Reaction. TAM and MAN move DS.]*

TAMARA

So...what can we do ya for?

MAN

I'm looking for my people.

TAMARA

Oh, well, you have come to the right place! This way.

*[Crosses SR, encounter BRUNO. Arrive to table DR. BRUNO exits DSL]*

Here is where we begin. So...what do we know?

MAN

Well...I'm adopted.

TAMARA

Ahhnnn.

MAN

But I've recently learned that my birth mother was an O'Reilly.

TAMARA

O'Reilly. Alrighty.

*[Takes out key, unlocks desk. Pulls out book.]*

...C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U, ou ou ou, ou, past it. Here we go. O'Conner, O'Donnell, O'Malley, O'Murphy, O'Rally, O'Reardon, O'Reegan, O'Reilly! Aisle 7, row HB, 122PN49. Bruno!

*[Enter BRUNO. Walks off UR. GENE gets broom.]*

Like you want to Bruno!

*[Exit DR. Re-Enter TAMARA UR.]*

TAMARA

Thanks Bruno. It'll just be a minute. So...what do we know about Mama?

MAN

Well, she was from Boston. Catholic, I assume. Maybe a Democrat?

TAMARA

Who even can tell, these days. Oh, Boston. Now there's some real history there. Not like here. Where they just got rocks.

*[GENE drops book in cart.]*

*[BRUNO enters with cart. TAMARA takes book. Puts it on US table. Exit BRUNO.]*

TAMARA

Okay...the O'Reilly's. Well, there's a lot of them...Seamus, Shannon, Shayleigh, Sinead, Siobhana...

MAN

Oh! My Grandmother's name was Katherine Angelica Vinora O'Reilly.

TAMARA

Katherine Aileen, Katherine Alana, Katherine Alina, Katherine Alona...here, Katherine Angelica Vinora O'Reilly. Maiden name O'Brien — wouldn't ya know.

MAN

Born: Ireland.

TAMARA  
County Cork. Bruno! County Cork!

MAN  
Ireland.

TAMARA  
Like you want it Bruno!

MAN  
So.. I'm Irish?

TAMARA  
Candy? Have a Butterscotch.

MAN  
Ah, sure but I luv me Butterscotch.

GENE  
*Wandered around US table and on top of DS table*  
Though I am old with wandering  
I will arise and go, and go to Innisfree.  
To find the land where she 'is gone,  
And pluck till time and times are done  
The golden apples of the sun.

TAMARA  
Okay Gene, what have I told you about climbing on the furniture. Have a butterscotch. (to MAN) Harmless.

*[Enter STACKER and FILER with headphones on, pushing carts across and out. TAMARA gets caught up in the traffic causing a little dance. BRUNO in with book. Exit BRUNO.]*

TAMARA  
Krocytounc, krocytounc, krocytounc, krocytounc, krocytounc. *[flip book around]* County Cork, County Cork, County Cork...here...

MAN  
Katherine Angelica Vinora O'Reilly, daughter of John Jacob Henry O'Brien. Farmer. County Cork. Ireland. Married to: ...Florabela Espanca!

TAMARA  
That ain't Irish.

MAN

Born: 1893. Lisbon, Portugal. Poet. Best known for her poem beginning with the line...

BRUNO

*[Entering suddenly.]* Eu quero amar, amar perdidamente! Amar só por amar: Aqui... além... I love her work. *[Exit.]*

TAMARA

Portugal, Bruno. Like you want to. *[Exit.]*

MAN

Eu quero amar, amar perdidamente! Amar só por amar: Aqui... além... Love, I want love, love just for love, here...now. I'm descended from poets. *[Ding.]* Portuguese Poets.

*[TAMARA back with box. Move to DS table.]*

TAMARA

Here's everything we got on 19<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese Poets.

MAN

*[looking through book]* Florbela Espanca, daughter of Guilherme Espanca, son of Eleuterio Espanca, of the house of Maximiliano: trader in Black Ebony, from off the coast of Senegal.

GENE

Africa.

MAN

Slave traders?

TAMARA

*[Opening little box, finding shackles.]*

Oh!

*[MAN reads from archival label on shackles. GENE has "set sail".]*

MAN/**Tamara?**

Look. Iron shackles. Found aboard the slave ship Tacora, bound for the new world, October 13, 1792, with a cargo in her hold of 237 souls.

GENE

Land ho!

MAN

Ran aground, December 24<sup>th</sup>, on the rocks off the shores of Haiti, and sank. All perished.

*[GENE collapses "ship". TAMARA finds herself stuck in shackles.]*

TAMARA

Well there you go...Ah! Ickity ick.

MAN

And there the record ends...

*[Box comes flying in from DR.]*

TAMARA

**Maybe not...** I found this. *[takes out Bible]* Here is the family bible, listing all the marriages of the house of Maximiliano. An one of them was married to a certain: — Fhatamatouti, of Senegal, also called "Florbela", kidnapped, and sent aboard the Tacora, a slave, to the new world...*[shackles]*.

MAN

So, my great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great Grandmother may have been a slave...?

*[GENE has disappeared.]*

But I'll never know for sure.

*[School group enters. Super busy, taking selfies, chit-chatting, hyper.]*

TAMARA

Oh crap my pants, I forgot they were coming. Today of all days. School group! In here kids, in here. C'mon, c'mon. And keep it down. Okay? Shhh. Library. **Smells like hot pockets and insecurity.**

*[to MAN]* Ahh...groups, groups, they give me the poops. Well Mr. O'Reilly O'Brien Florbela Espanca...you're like an ancestral paella, an all you can eat heritage buffet, and spicy. Just keep in mind we close at six.

MAN

But where should I look? Where should I look?

*[GENE has snuck up on MAN. Drops book out of herself. Turns on him. Backs him up to window. Get rope, pull rope across stage. In the office TAMARA is becoming a pirate. STACKER and FILER could eventually join this image. STUDENTS add sound from room.]*

GENE

I, Afonso Fhatamatouti Gonçalves Espanca, of Portugal,  
Highly recommended, joined crew with Vasco da Gama.  
aboard *São Rafael*.

Through seas where sail was never spread before.  
We lost souls, ships, cried, starved, and swore.  
O Heav'n, what tempests roar'd, while round the vast of Afric's  
southern horn our eastward bowsprits sailed.

Before us now another ocean to our view,  
Past Zanzibar, Mozambique, Mombassa's shores we flew.

And what the perils of a route so bold, so dread as ours?  
Triumphant spice! I do confess, t'was spice,  
For which our sails were blowin'.  
Precious spice, though bitter, so sweet upon the tongue.  
Spice to bring us silver, spice to bring us gold.

*[TAMARA has begun to clean office window. STACKER and FILER are helping and become an elephant carrying her. STUDENTS are doing percussion accompaniment.]*

Now open'd a path through the boundless flood!  
With our flags ablazin' o'er the tide,  
On India's shore at last arrive.  
As high to the fleecy clouds resplendent fly  
The regal towers of Malabar, Calicut, and old Mombai.

*[Rope drops and retracts into window. MAN startles. Tamara doesn't drop, instead clears her cart away]*

MAN

So then on my other side the line must go back to *[butterfly book by Cherris]* — Bombay, called Mombayn, Bombain, Bombaym, Monbaym,

Mombaim, Mombaym, Bambaye, Bombaiim, Bombeye, Boon Bay, Bon Bahia, Mumbai.

GENE/Tamara

~~Move this to after Mumbai? Tamara dances~~ The essence of all beings is earth, the essence of the earth — water, the essence of water — plants, the essence of plants — man, the essence of man— speech, the essence of speech ~~the Rig-veda, the essence of the Rig-veda the Sâma-veda, the essence of the Sâma-veda the udgîtha, which is Om. They create a 6 armed deity thing, Cherris creates a beat~~

~~The mind excites the fire of the body, that fire stirs the breath, and the breath, moving in the chest, comes forth within the cavity of the heart, and the ball of blood which is there. They do yoga? Brought forth by the touch of the fire, as with a churning-stick, it is at first a minim, from the minim it becomes in the throat a double minim; on the tip of the tongue the Rig-veda Sâma-veda the udgîtha, which is Om. know that it is a treble minim, and, when uttered, it is the birth...Om... They "Om" several times, Gene moves~~

Students have their own construction in the back of a 6 armed deity-thing

[TAMARA comes out of the office.]

TAMARA

~~Ahh. Is it me, or is it hot in here? Like a jungle. Grrr. Growl. Is anyone else craving curry? I could really go for a good Chana Masala...~~

Oooooommmmm ...Mr. O'Reilly O'Brian Florbela Espanca Maximiliano Fahatamatouti de Vasco da Gama...looks like you're at bit of a crossroads. Which way do you go? East? West? You know when I'm at a fork in the road I take it, give myself a good poke in the Sanskrit/Vishnu, and explore — Marco!

Each student pops up on a "Polo"

GENE

Polo.

TAMARA

Marco.

GENE

Polo.

TAMARA

Marco.



GENE

Polo.

TAMARA

Marco.

GENE

Polo.

CHERRIS

Marco!

MARCO

[*Running in with book. 3<sup>rd</sup> marco – Josh and Max run across the stage and take off the US table*] Sorry.

MAN

You must be the resident specialist in 13<sup>th</sup> century commerce along the ancient route of the silkroad.

TAMARA

Oh god no, this is our intern Marco. Nice polo.

MAN

But you do speak Italian.

MARCO

No.

MAN

Oh...cause...well, I just assumed, I mean what with the hair and...never mind.

TAMARA

Awkward. So, another deadend? "which way do we go?" or something

Do we want to stay in India here? Or move on to China/Marco Polo.

GENE

I have not told you half of all that I have seen. When a man rides along this road by night, lost to his companions, he will hear the spirit voices calling him by name. Luring him from the path he's on, hopelessly astray....be brave, it does not matter how slowly you go, so

long as you do not stop. Behold...that which you seek, will be found in there. *Students hiss, bell rings*

*[Reveals the hole. TAMARA tries to comprehend how there can be a hole in the wall*

*"The vent? That doesn't make any sense. [she runs back and forth to prove the vent isn't in the office] it's a vent but it doesn't go anywhere. Where does it go-o-o-o-o-o. It's deep, really really deep. [gene throws out a bowling ball] Gene, bowling's on Wednesday, [this is when Gene breaks out the bowling ball it's Gene's crystal ball... I forgot I had bowling tonight... This will answer all our questions [messes with the ball so it reveals its secrets"]*

*[C gives the sign the bowling ball should be thrown, random noise or Chinese]*

*Tamara: Okay gene, I'll send it down the hole sends in a bowling ball to see how far it goes. Listen, listen, listen, listen, it hits and DING,*

*Tamara: It's deep... really deep. [GENE gets the rope]*

*MAN: If I want to find The way back to my ancestors I'll have to go in there*

*TAM: No sir, not on my watch. [GENE drops the rope] MARCO SHERRIS BRUNO. Bruno SR, MARCO center, Sherris SL We need a volunteer – Marco. Bruno, Sherris you're on the rope. Marco, you signed a release right? [MARCO goes down the vent] nice shoes. He's going, he's going, he's going... Volunteer? Sends in MARCO.*

*MAN: Italian.*

*SHERRIS: I got it!*

*TAM: She's got it [Sherris slides forward to the wall] MARCO you ready – eady- eady, you safe/ok-k-k-k? Pull me up-up-up [They pull out GENE]. What did you do to Marco? Did you eat him? Great, now we lost another intern.*

*GENE: In Kublai Khan... the ancestral voices of war! [students and MAN, GENE< and TAM create war sounds]*

*[MARCO crawls back out bloody or possibly/definitely headless. Maybe with an artifact, map, etc. Everyone screams as MARCO pops out right behind GENE]*

*TAM: Triage! Bruno! Boys! [BRUNO take MARCO to DS table and Max and Josh enter to carry him off, TAM runs around center freaking out] ~~We have a first aid kit.~~ Ohmigod, he lost his head! I'll have to call his parents!*

*~~SHERRIS: I got him~~*

*~~TAM: Marco, Bruno, Sherris go.~~*

*MAN: This is my calling. I have to go and try to retrace my people [ding] [GENE gives MAN a hubcap and weapon/umbrella, MAN crawls down the hole, TAM tries to hold him but is dragged just like Sherris]*

*TAM: I'll be at the end of your rope Mr. O'Reilly, O'Brian, Espanca, Maximiliano, etc. Be sure to report back [MAN goes down the hole, TAM is dragged and almost goes down the hole]*

*TAM: OH MY GOD!!! [crawls back up] I saw my future and it's not pretty. Well he's on his own now. A canary in a coal mine. [Bird box will come out] TAM: We lost him*

*GENE: The beating of the bird wings will something, and protect the wanderer.*

*TAM: Thank you Gene. [Bird starts to work] Thank you bird. Thank you mister o'brien... [they retrace steps back to Mongolia and N has a speech, Students begins to sing] [ they retrace steps – O'Brian to Portugal with Florbela to the slave traders/Maximiliano around the coast of Africa to Mumbai into India with marco polo to Kublai Khan to Mogolia to the Ket people in he must be with his people in Siberia] and loses the rope GENE closes the vent]*

*A mini scene happens to talk about his journey and the bell dings*

*MAN: [over intercom] Head librarian? Do you read me?*

*TAM: I hear you, over and out.*

*MAN: Head Librarian Tammy? It's Mr. O'Reilly, O'Brien, Espanca, Maximiliano, Polo, Khan. I'm reporting. ~~I'm back in the 21st century,~~*

*you'll never believe what I found. It's true, a frozen frozen wasteland/ a barren, desolate land as far as the eye can see, no humans, there's large beasts that roam the earth, and tribes of people who sing and chant together who express themselves in ways [GENE has appeared in the tundra] Hang on, I'm being attacked by a bear It's hard to see, but there's a small herd of caribou in the distance [students begin to sing], they're doing a mating ritual/seem to be ya-ing they're mating song.*

*TAM: I've seen this, on the Discovery Channel.*

*MAN: It grows colder now, day by day. It's beginning to snow. There seems to be a slip of land, like a bridge, a frozen land bridge, I'm will take it, crossing it now. I'm on the other side, and when I turn back and look, I think I can see it.*

*TAM: Can you see it from your house?*

*MAN: The snow has picked up. It's hard to see. It's a blizzard. [snow is blowing on from offstage] And there's a bear! [students begin to sing as MAN fights the bear (as played by GENE), students song picks up as MAN kills the bear and wears it's fur, TAM takes off her sweater and shoes, and MAN takes off his suit jacket], TAMARA is fighting her own battle alone with items from GENE's cart] IS there anyone out there?*

*TAM: I'm here*

*MAN: I have been alone now for I don't know how long I leave this as for posterity in case I am never found, I am moving down through this frozen waste land I am calling Canadon't, Canado, Canada, Canaduh, Candyland. [TAM takes off her head scarf, shirt, and ties up her skirt – now a CAVEMAN/CAVETAM] I go now, I am so alone, so very very alone.*

*[TAMARA has become a man, taken off his headscarf and shirt and tied his skirt to be loincloth-esque, he exits USR and comes back on in the R office, they interact as cavemen, TAM bites MAN, scares him to SL office]*

*MAN: Wait, there, in the distance, can it be? Someone! [MAN approaches CAVETAM, tries to shake hands, CAVETAM inspects his hand, then bites him, but then they make friends. MAN moves back to main office, CAVETAM stops at door to look at himself in the glass] We have learned to communicate in our own special way, he has become*

like my brother [TAMARA chants]. I feel that I know him, like I have known him forever. He has taught me his language, and he's leading me south. Like he is perhaps my great great great... grandpapa [With TAM's direction] It grows hotter day by day we wash ourselves *spritz with the water bottle*], and cover ourselves with dust [they cover themselves in powder like in the first scene ] we are heading south, to a place he calls ughunonuh. *Also known as Arizona*. he's bringing me to his home, a great cave dug into the side of a cliff, dusty and stuff. It hangs in the heat, huge, shaded from the hot afternoon sun. A place where a population [Arvo Pärt starts playing, students, now cavemen enter and interact] can survive, survive even through a period of harsh conditions, a refuge. He lives there with others, like himself. He is here surrounded by others

[GENE enters, with her blanket, and moves her cart. MAN enters into the main room, old as he was in the first scene. They release Madi, the bird from the box, josh makes his bird noise, GENE sings Falling in Love Again over Pärt, holding dirt, throws it down, casting a spell. MAN and GENE dig in the dirt and finds his watch. listens to the tick tock of the watch. MAN gives it to BIRD. BIRD becomes CAVEBOY]

MAN: And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell, and I understood more than I saw. [CAVEMEN, GENE, TAMARA, and MAN gather, gather around MAN. CAVETAM and GENE stand as the composer and wife from earlier] For I was seeing the shape of all things, and the shape of all shapes, as they must live together. [all the cavemen will sit together] wide as daylight and starlight and in the center grew one flowering tree to shelter all the children, one mother, one father, and in the leaves the birds began to sing and just for a little while I thought I saw the side of a village with legs or wings and all were happy [all sing Brahms, face the east]

~~MARCO comes back with hand. Hand points at MAN.~~

MAN

~~[Send MARCO back down, pull out GENE. Image of Buddha.]~~