

Tropic of Orange, Part 1: Monday-Wednesday

AS & JdeJ, ENG 4550/5550, Spring 2016

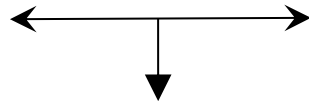
Major Characters

Bobby

-Hard-working
-Rigid
-Materialistic

Rafaela

-Intelligent
-Adaptable
-College education



Sol (2)

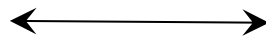
Works for...

Emi

-Loud
-Cutting-edge tech
-TV/News editor

Gabriel

-Observant
-Old-fashioned tech
-Writer/reporter



Gets stories from...

Manzanar

-Sansei (3rd gen JA)
-Used to be a surgeon
-Conductor of city life

Gave tip

Buzzworm (Angel of Mercy)

-Street smart
-Cares for others



Arcangel: mythical, performer, also El Gran Mojado, travelling north

Other Characters

- Currently In Mazatlán: Señor Rodriguez, Doña Maria & son Hernando
- Bobby's Relatives: Father (China), brother (college), cousin (Tijuana)
- C. Juárez: mystery woman, recently arrived in LA, has baby

Major Events (So Far)

- Orange falls off tree and weather gets *weird*; Arcangel brings Orange north
- Crashes and fires on LA highway. Homeless take over a mile of abandoned cars.
- Child organ trafficking? C. Juárez rushes from plane to hospital (with organ cooler?). Hernando's whispers and Rafaela's theft of another cooler.

Themes/Topics*

- **Boundaries**
 - Artificial boundaries: nations, territories, class
 - Physical boundaries: rivers, oceans
 - Roads as both boundary and avenue for movement
 - Impermanence of boundaries
 - Connections/networks between humans
- **Time and Space**
 - Movement of humans through time and space
 - “In *Tropic of Orange*, I used the metaphor of the land moving, but actually it's the humans who have moved. ... the real message is that people are moving. And that has changed the landscape entirely, because they've taken their culture and their landscape with them.” -Karen Tei Yamashita (Interview, 1998)
 - Distortion of time and space
- **Identity**
 - Identity of Place = current place? nation born? nation ancestors born?
 - Identity of Race = heritage? stereotypes? actual actions? language?
- **Technology and Human Interaction**
 - Old Technology vs. New Technology: how humans interact with each other and how they interact with and experience the world
 - Technology and Capitalism: effects of globalization
 - “... All that is in the book in funny ways -- the satellite dishes, how TV stations can expand coverage, how PBS thought it was very important to get coverage in outlying areas so people in the Mojave Desert could get reception, how satellite trucks can film something at a specific site and send live material back to the station for general transmission. All that got internalized throughout the book.” -Karen Tei Yamashita (Interview, 2010)

***Please find a few examples from the book for some of these topics for Friday.**

Sources

1998 Interview: <http://english.chass.ncsu.edu/jouvert/v2i2/YAMASHI.HTM>

2010 Interview: http://www.bookslut.com/features/2010_07_016303.php

Chuh, Kandice. “Of Hemispheres and Other Spheres: Navigating Karen Tei Yamashita’s Literary World.” *American Literary History* 18.3 (2006): 618-637. JSTOR.

Vint, Sherryl. “Orange County: Global Networks in *Tropic of Orange*.” *Science Fiction Studies* 39.3 (2012): 401-414. JSTOR.