

NOT IN MY NIGHTMARE - SCENE 8

The basement door flew open revealing an imposing figure. He was tall, 7 feet or more, taller still with the top hat and the massive crow atop it, with sergeant crows on each shoulder scanning the room as its silent witnesses. The man wore a stunning cape and carried a gleaming, silver wand, or was it a baton, or something else? He broadcast the look of a magician in full control, stepping forward and rising up even larger as he faced the dumbstruck crowd.

THE MAN OF MAGIC

I have come from elsewhere to deliver a message of importance to each of you.

RUSS

Paco, are you writing this character?

PACO

No, Russ, I thought you were.

THE MAN OF MAGIC

No one is authoring me. Oh, to be sure, I get written down as you see here, but I just appear, unbidden, as if born fully formed from Athena's head. No, that is not true. I am not born from any known source. Truth be told, and this is my message, I am born from the Realm of Entanglement. If you must know, your so-called rules of authorship, of narrative, even readership, do not apply. Simply put, the whole idea of rules, is absurd.

OWL MAN

Well, everyone, this message clarifies something I have been trying to articulate for some time. What I am referring to is that the "simple" idea of entanglement is that something done

to one particle happens to its twin, no matter the distance. But what our new friend has now made clear is that this is not the main thing. The main thing is that something is born from the action of entanglement, something "wholly other."

HERON MAN

And if I might add, being 'wholly other,' what is born cannot be predicted.

THE MAN OF MAGIC

Insightful, Mr. Heron Man! You bird guys seem to catch on.

LEFT SHOULDER CROW

Catch on, Catch on! Quick to catch on!

RIGHT SHOULDER CROW

Indeed, indeed, quick to catch on is to be cheered indeed!

RUSS

You know, Paco, there is no requirement that the initial set of particles (authors + readers) be twins. Entanglement must work on any connection between the pair!

PACO

And as long as strangeness is allowed here, perhaps entanglement works its strange ways on differences as well.

CHIP

All way over my head, you guys. How about you, head crow, can you make sense of this for a simple fella?

HEAD CROW

No, Mr. Chip. Sense is not the aim, not the goal, nor the purpose, or any of that rational bunk. Think of it as always having to play the cards you are dealt. You may want certain dreams, but these are not the dreams you are dealt. So, make or do something from the dreams you are dealt. Just be aware, or beware, you will always generate entanglement.

OWL MAN

Absolutely, Heron!

HERON MAN

Absolutely what, Owl?

OWL MAN

What you were thinking.

HERON MAN

You know what I was thinking?

OWL MAN

Well, it came to me, out of the blue, as it were, that you were thinking that the shoulder birds were female. And I agree with this absolutely.

PACO

I was! That's what I was thinking. But Owl, I was thinking in Spanish, and you don't know Spanish, so how could you—?