

EUREKA DAY

ACT ONE

Scene 1

An elementary school library in an old building high up in the Berkeley hills, designed by Julia Morgan or one of her imitators. A view of the Golden Gate or Bay Bridge (or possibly both) out the window. It's dusk.

The books are divided into three sections: Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Social Justice.

*Bordering the room is lettering and images from progressive educational materials, such as the alphabet book A Is for Activist.**

Posters adorn the walls: "Berkeley Stands United Against Hate," "We Are The Resistance," "We Acknowledge that Eureka Day is located on the unceded territory of the Chochenyo-Speaking Lisjan Ohlone People."

A large banner reads: "WELCOME TO YOUR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR."

Don, Eli, Carina, Meiko, and Suzanne sit in adult-sized chairs around a square of child-sized tables that have been pushed together. A plate of half-eaten scones sits at the center.

Throughout the scene, Meiko is knitting.

As the new person, Carina is seated in the middle.

MEIKO
personally no

* See note on Songs/Recordings, Images, or Other Production Design Elements at the back of this volume.

I don't find it offensive
the term *itself* is not offensive

ELI
(*Helpfully.*)
it's descriptive

SUZANNE
I think she's saying
I'm not putting words in your mouth
she's saying it's not *offensive*
but when you contextualize it in that *way*

MEIKO
I find
the best way not to put words in someone's mouth?
is not to put words in their mouth

DON
okay okay

SUZANNE
sorry sorry

MEIKO
it's fine
what I meant was
that we'd want to make it absolutely clear that it's optional
that it's not
Either
Or

SUZANNE
right
and *also*
that the inclusion of the term on this list *at all* is

I think
inappropriate?
and that some people may
With Good Reason
find its inclusion offensive

ELI
no no yeah

I just wonder though
by leaving it off

is it possible some people would find its *absence* offensive?

DON
you're concerned
that it could be a sort of
erasure
of people's experience?

ELI
right
if our Core Operating Principle here is that everyone should
Feel Seen
by this community

SUZANNE
there's no benefit in Feeling Seen
if you're simultaneously being Othered
right?

MEIKO
(*Considering.*)
well
no yeah

A little moment.

DON
Carina did you want to

do you want to
offer anything?

CARINA

oh I
I'm happy to defer
I don't know that I've really formed a strong [opinion]

DON

that's perfectly all right
even just your gut instinct is [welcomed]
this is an Open Room
we *welcome* your unique perspective

CARINA

okay
uhhhh
thank you

will you just
can you remind me what the dropdown menu currently says?

ELI

surrurrurrurr
(*Pulling it up on his phone.*)
okay it's
the list is alphabetical just FYI
African-American or Black
East Asian Heritage
European Heritage or White
First Nations comma
Indigenous and Aboriginal comma
Native American Heritage
Latinx Heritage
Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab comma West Asian Heritage
Multiracial
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian Heritage
South Asian Heritage

Southeast Asian Heritage
and

Other

A little beat.

CARINA

that seems pretty [comprehensive]
doesn't it?
it strikes me as
comprehensive?

MEIKO

a lot of thought went into it

ELI

look
it's possible because of my cousin's kids
I may have some Deeper Learning around this issue than you all do?
so
I just think
why not err on the side of *more* inclusivity
right?

SUZANNE

so
the *reason* not to Eli would be
the term Transracial Adoptee is [not appropriate]
the fact that you are adopted does not *change* your / [race]

ELI

I don't think anyone's saying that

SUZANNE

it's just
my understanding of that term is
is that it's a way to think about our

Cultural Identity

and also to think about how it *impacts*

the way our racial identity is formulated
and created over time

CARINA

so that makes [sense]
that actually sounds right to me

I mean I can just say / as a Bla[ck Woman]

ELI

oh oh oh
sorry to cut you off but I wonder

I wonder if there's a better *frame*
for this conversation which is:
who is the dropdown menu for?

DON

for families applying to our school

ELI

no no no okay

obviously

sure

but

ELI

suressure

it's complicated

CARINA

no no no [go ahead]

SUZANNE

maybe a way to think about
it is
if you are pulled over by the
police they don't

they don't *ask* you if you were
adopted

MEIKO

oh that's a good
that's a really a good [point]

also

there's the perception of our community
as we're viewed from the outside
say a picture on the website or in a brochure
of course people are gonna make certain assumptions
because we live in a racist society that applies race as a primary lens

or

is this about how we Perceive Ourselves?
so it's more
From The Inside Out

DON

you're suggesting
the *starting point* is identity?

ELI

right right right

MEIKO

(*Skeptical.*)

mmmmmmmm

CARINA

and isn't

I'm sorry tell me if I'm misunderstanding
isn't Suzanne's point
and I think I agree?
that we'd be conflating two very different / [kinds of things]

ELI

no no no
it's a question of *framing*

SUZANNE

I think that's right Carina thank you

DON

it sounds like there's a lot to unpack here

A tiny moment.