

calculations establish its state as a near-certainty.

The Black Owl is transported straight to Saturn, where aliens give her gifts and water and tell her that her world is not her world, that beneath her so-called "reality" there is an infinite labyrinth of potential realities. She is transported, and she returns to a world that has never been her own and finds that she can no longer tolerate its atmosphere. She swivels her head and blinks her eyes and thinks, I must leave. I can't breathe, and the veil over my eyes has been replaced with spectacles.

She reasons that perhaps she can escape through this space which is so entangled with her own. Perhaps she can relinquish this dead world to its ghosts and monsters and shades.

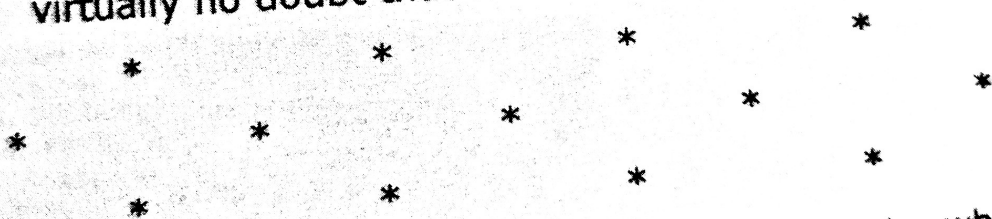
She turns to quantum mechanics in order to refigure reality. She knows that attempting to affix observable reality to a plastic slide is useless because observable reality is a cruel lie. She rejects the narrow facts of the atomic clock and the supercomputer, and tries instead to chase a photon to another world.

Everything at once becomes clear to her when she realizes that her quantum state is entangled with the other place. She understands that a hurricane isn't

a disaster until humans are forced into its path, and time isn't time until the atomic clock tells us so. Our world is only *our world* because of the misfortune of our birth. Could not the Black Owl enact a third migration, ride the photon to a new Zion—a world away from the reality that the Black Owl was abducted into?

The Black Owl rejects the so-called reality of her birth. She takes what she was perhaps not meant to be offered and engineers a new world, a new reality, to make after her own image.

Compared to the shock and agony of the veil, making the physical leap is a comparably minor obstacle. With our nigh-unfettered access to university laboratories it is only a matter of execution. There is virtually no doubt that we are on the train to glory.



As this recovered passage of *The Black Owl* suggests, what is sometimes called "consensus reality" limits our capacity to see other worlds, some wondrous and seemingly fantastical, which nonetheless coexist with what many people imagine to be the world (as a static concept marked by the definite article). Multiple worlds taken on an invisibility because of the stranglehold of social norms. Of course, defenses of

consensus reality are legion. Yet it is worth remembering that slavery, for example, was once a well-integrated element of consensus reality.

Despite the considerable theoretical and practical work in the field of quantum engineering, the way of seeing the world from a quantum perspective does not enter into the consensus reality of most people.