

《《 KAPITAL: Character Arcs & Allegory 》》

A CONTRAST OF CHARACTER ARCS

Both Haywood and Flynn were zealous fellow travelers in a passionate pursuit of a singular ideal. Their personal journeys had different origins and, at times, took different paths. Their destinies were forever intertwined, yet their fates would end quite differently.

HAYWOOD: Haywood's militant disposition was forged by the raw "Wild West" and the rough-and-tumble world of mining life. Over the years, Haywood reveled in his rugged western temperament while also cultivating a persona of a polished, erudite radical leader and a genuine celebrity within leftist "salon society." Haywood was a brawler with a brain.

FLYNN: Flynn's early passion for social justice was aroused in a home filled with fervent debate and shaped by an intellect cultivated in the urbanity of New York City and the clamor of its streets. As she matured, Flynn's youthful idealism and intellectual self-confidence were hardened through struggle and loss into the stoic mettle that came to define her as the "Rebel Girl" within the rough-hewn male-dominated Wobbly ranks. Flynn was an intellectual who could brawl with the best of them.

In their journeys, Haywood became a sophisticated hero and flawed frontline general of a movement. The scholarly Flynn became a valiant and passionate foot soldier in the trenches of the struggle. Haywood self-destructed. Flynn remained a survivor throughout her life.

FLYNN AND HAYWOOD AS ALLEGORICAL CHARACTERS

In many ways, Flynn's story represents the philosophical romance, the heartbreak, the resilience, the poetry and the naiveté of "rebellion" while Haywood's represents a societal insurrection's intellectual warts, betrayals, brittleness, and very brutal realities.

CHARACTER-RELATED SYMBOLISM ... AND A MAN ON A TRAIN

TRAIN: The life journey of Haywood, Flynn, and Hill is symbolized by a train ride that opens every episode. The symbolism is overt, representing the "track" of one's life. Or as Joe Hill tells a young William O. Douglas: "Hopping the train is easy, Billy O. Knowing whether it's taking you where you need to be... Well, that's the troublesome part."

HAYWOOD'S DINNER PAIL: Throughout the series, Haywood's dinner pail provides him with both physical sustenance and a psychic grounding — containing at various times: his lunch, his booze, his rhetorical props, his "self-control" and finally — Joe Hill's ashes.

"MAN ON TRAIN:" This unnamed character has both the opening and closing lines in the series (his only lines) and makes very fleeting (nearly unnoticeable) appearances in every episode. He could represent the near constant surveillance Haywood, Flynn, and other radicals were under by government operatives and private spies. Or he could represent a contemporaneous historian, or KAPITAL's future storyteller, or all of the above — or more. Or he may simply be a man on a train.

