

◀◀ KAPITAL: Synopsis of Episodes 1-6 ▶▶

Episode 1 Prodding Cattle

“Even the callous and ignorant have a right to free speech.”

November 1962: Gurley Flynn (age 72) travels by train to Chicago where she will address a university audience. As she nods off, a flashback montage reveals significant events in her young radical life. [Note: *The montage is a preview of what will unfold in the miniseries.*]

The news of the day is revealed through various devices: The Cuban missile crisis has just ended; Nixon has just lost his bid for California governor; James Meredith is guarded by U.S. marshals as he tries to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

On campus, Gurley spots a defaced poster announcing her talk. Scrawled across it in bold letters are the words: “The Only Good Red Is A Dead Red.” Gurley refuses to allow her coed student host to take the threatening poster down.

“By class, of course, I do not mean knowing what fork to use to eat a salad.”

As Gurley begins her talk, we are transported to 1904 and the South Bronx working-class neighborhood where she grew up. We are introduced to 14 year-old Gurley, who is called Lizzie by her family; her parents, Annie (40ish) and Thom (50ish); and her siblings: Young Kathie (age 11), Young Bina (age 4), and Young Tom (age 10). We see that the Flynn family — though poor — is very intellectual, studious, and nonconformist.

The Flynns’ neighborhood is full of the prejudices of the day — against the “shanty” Irish, Italians, and Jews. But Annie Flynn is determined to instill in her children a respect for all people and a sense of class-consciousness. Gurley (age 72) narrates a slide show for her university audience depicting scenes of child labor common in her neighborhood.

“Many people put their hope in God ... My family put their faith in Marx.”

The Flynns are socialists — not unusual for members of the working class in those days, Gurley tells her audience, noting that her family “went to socialist meetings like other people went to church.” Young Gurley is mesmerized by the socialist rhetoric she hears.

Thom Flynn — often out of work — consistently looks at the vagaries of life with a Marxist eye. And he constantly insists his family listen to his “excited rants and his latest theories.” As usual, Thom interjects himself into a school essay Gurley is writing.

As Thom begins to tell Gurley of Big Bill Haywood and the “Colorado labor wars” the story shifts to 1895 with Haywood (age 27) and other “rail riders” hitching a ride atop a freight train winding its way through the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains. In need of work, Haywood gets a job prodding cattle on a livestock train heading for Chicago. Joining Haywood are Yiddish-accented Dubo, an older man, and Carlon, a younger one.

“I killed that Negro as much as anyone.”

As dusk turns to night, Haywood, Dubo, and Carlon prod cattle and discuss the hard economic times they’ve faced. In VO, Gurley describes the economic disparities of the era, the rise of the robber barons, and working people’s disenchantment with the economic system. Hobos trying to hitch a ride on the freight/cattle train are beaten off by train dicks.

Dubo tells Haywood about the day the Cossacks took his family away. In turn, Haywood describes — *seen in flashback* — the lynching he witnessed when he was a boy of 12. Haywood also tells his cattle-prodding cohorts he’s quitting the job to return to mining “before the capitalist bosses get it all.” Dubo’s lantern light catches Haywood’s face in full, revealing to the camera — for the very first time — Haywood’s dead milky-white right eye.

“He’s all yours, Mr. Boyce.”

Now working as a silver miner, Haywood has settled in Silver City, Idaho, with his wife, Nevada Jane (30ish) — and their daughter, Young Vernie (age 5). We learn that Nevada Jane suffers terribly from chronic arthritis and is nearly always in excruciating pain.

We see that Silver City is a remnant of the “Wild West” with gritty streets, brothels, and saloons. It sits in a narrow valley with mines sprouting from its sides. Miners’ shacks sit on weedy parcels with ore cars traveling overhead from mine to smelter mill and back. About 2,000 miners, their families, merchants, and brothel workers call the “city” home.

Haywood has a horrific accident in the mine and nearly loses his hand. While on the mend, he gets by on the generosity of his fellow miners. At a packed union-organizing meeting, Haywood is transfixed by the fiery oratory delivered by Edward Boyce, president of the Western Federation of Miners. Boyce quickly identifies Haywood as a natural leader.

“Would you kill a man if it was for a higher purpose than what his life was worth?”

Haywood (seen in montage) soon becomes the driving force behind the success of the Silver City union and is not above using the threat of violence against miners who do not support the cause. He becomes enmeshed in the union, sometimes distancing himself from his family.

Haywood watches helplessly as his best friend Jayce, unable to handle a new pneumatic hammer is killed by a crashing boulder. Haywood roughs up Dickle, an unsavory character who makes unwelcome and threatening advances on both Nevada Jane and Jayce’s widow.

Haywood leaves his mining job (but not his union work) to care for his wife after the birth of the Haywoods’ second daughter leaves Nevada Jane an even greater invalid and in even greater pain. “Madam” Chew — a eunuch brothel owner and Chinese herbalist — provides Haywood with opium in an effort to help ease Nevada Jane’s suffering.

Boyce taps Haywood to go on a mission for the union. In a flashback to six months earlier, a large gang of masked men use dynamite to completely destroy the Bunker Hill ore concentrator complex owned by the Standard Oil Company in the Coeur d’Alenes, Idaho.

— END OF EPISODE ONE —

Episode 2

“Boys, Think of Yourselves as Minutemen.”

[In Episodes 2&3, Thom’s storytelling and Gurley’s lecture morph into one another.]

“She’ll be shooting bolts of lightning when she comes.”

Haywood travels by train from the Southwest Idaho to the Coeur d’Alenes region of the state. Haywood’s train trip showcases a beautiful landscape that subtly reveals itself being ravaged by the clear-cutting of forests and the poisonous pollution from ore smelters. Against this backdrop, different versions of *She’ll Be Coming ’Round the Mountain* are sung — traditionally by a group of children; as a spiritual by a group of black men; and as a protest anthem by a group of disheveled prisoners.

Haywood meets up with two union men in the Coeur d’Alenes, Paddy and Burke, who tell Haywood about the affect of martial law on the region following the destruction of the Bunker Hill concentrator, including the suspension of habeas corpus — or as Burke says, “getting locked-up without a charge, you know, without that foreign word.”

“Let us then be prepared to meet our enemies with the weapons of his choice.”

Haywood, Paddy, Burke, and another union man, Mullins, spy on the notorious “bullpen” stockade where hundreds of men are being held under martial law and guarded by U.S. Army soldiers (their hands and faces not seen) who regularly taunt their prisoners. We soon see that all the soldiers (except their officers) are black and all the prisoners are white — creating a racially charged environment, which the elderly Gurley cynically implies to her university audience, was quite deliberate.

Haywood becomes Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) and moves to Denver with his family. Haywood urges political action to confront the union’s foes while other union leaders urge more militant action. At the 1901 WFM convention, Boyce endorses the power of the ballot box. But should that prove impossible, he declares, union miners should be prepared to shed their “last drop of blood at the point of a bayonet.”

“Here’s to our Independence Day.”

Haywood is interviewed by Wiley, a correspondent for the anti-labor *Los Angeles Times*, who portrays Haywood as an anarchist and “buffoon.” Haywood takes his anger at the story out on Rocky, a sympathetic correspondent for the *World*. Wiley justifies his reporting by telling Rocky “there’s nothing wrong with a little embellishment for the sake of clarity.”

Striking union miners led by Vincent St. John use armed force to take over the Smuggler-Union mine in Telluride, Co. Boyce implores Colorado Gov. Orman to use restraint in responding to the unauthorized action. The governor’s aide, Mr. Frank, urges sending in the state militia. The governor sends a fact-finding team that mediates a settlement and concludes that management was as much to blame for the uprising as the union men.

President McKinley is assassinated by a “crazed anarchist” — thrusting Teddy Roosevelt into the presidency. McKinley’s death is hardly mourned by union miners who note that it was McKinley who sent the U.S. Army to the Coeur d’Alenes.

“You’ll be going to your deaths that way.”

Granger, the leader of WFM miners working in the Bullion Tunnel of the Smuggler-Union Mine, raises concerns about safety in the mine. When Foreman Billy tries to raise the union’s issues with management he is rudely rebuffed by the mine’s arrogant young superintendent.

A massive fire engulfs the complex outside the Bullion Tunnel. As deadly smoke begins to fill the mine tunnel the superintendent forces Foreman Billy at gunpoint to empty the mine’s armory (though it is not threatened by the fire) before helping the miners inside the tunnel. In the end, some 20 miners die — including Simple Tom, whose name describes his character.

“I fight for the children still unborn.”

More than 2,000 mourners, including Haywood and Nevada Jane, attend the joint burials of 16 of the victims of the fire. Months later, Granger and about 40 other miners are killed when an avalanche levels their bunkhouse. Meanwhile, Haywood and Nevada Jane’s marriage is visibly strained.

A “general” in civilian clothes tells Mr. Frank that the fire and avalanche must be the wrath of God coming down upon the union. Mr. Frank replies that it will take “more than God’s intervention to get rid of them.” The two men meet with a banker named Peabody.

Rocky heads East to cover the anthracite coal strike gripping the nation. Mother Jones derides capitalism and implores the coal miners to stick together so the “sweet sound of liberty can ring across the land again.” In a posh gentlemen’s club, a group of “well-fed men” denounce Mother Jones and declare that they must, at all costs, protect the coalmines — which *God* has entrusted to *them*. Teddy Roosevelt threatens to intervene to settle the strike.

“The pursuit of wealth my friends, is the true American ideal.”

Boyce steps down as WFM president and is replaced by Charles Moyer. In his farewell address, Boyce paints a picture of a socialist revolution to come that will replace capitalism with a new economic system controlled by the working class. Peabody, the Republican candidate for Colorado governor, attacks the labor movement, acquainting it with anarchy. Peabody promises to protect the wealth rightfully acquired by righteous men.

Haywood and Moyer pledge that the WFM will mount a general strike in solidarity with the coal miners if the coal miners’ union (the UMW) will mount a general strike as well. The UMW’s president thanks the WFM for its support but is silent on the union’s offer of militant assistance. The coal strike ends when Teddy Roosevelt — with the help of J.P. Morgan — intervenes, forcing the coal barons to bargain with the union.

In the election of 1902, anti-labor Peabody (aided by Mr. Frank) is elected governor of Colorado and the miners win a WFM-backed referendum directing the state legislature to mandate an 8-hour workday. Mr. Frank and Haywood offer up toasts to their respective victories. “The future is ours to make,” says Haywood. “The unions and their eight-hour day are doomed,” declares Mr. Frank.

— END OF EPISODE TWO —

Episode 3 Flag Day

“The bosses lived in mansions. The workers lived in tents — even in the dead of winter.”

Traveling by train to Denver, McParland, a Pinkerton chief detective, briefs Pickle, an undercover operative. McParland shows Pickle surveillance photographs of Western Federation of Miners (WFM) leaders. McParland paints a picture of the WFM as a powerful foe that has successfully elected pro-union politicians to many local offices across Colorado.

A “montage of opposites” depicts the utterly different daily lives of smelter workers living in threadbare tents in squalid Colorado City and those of their bosses residing in their resplendent mansions in beautiful Colorado Springs. Haywood urges the smeltermen to strike for union recognition. Haywood cites the failure to enact a law on the 8-hour workday as an example of the futility of relying on the legislative system.

Nevada Jane seeks out the services of a “faith healer” in an effort to ease her suffering. Haywood dismisses the woman as a charlatan and gets angry when his daughters Vernie (age 11) and Etta (age 5) are drawn into the faith healing ritual. Rocky introduces Haywood to muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell who is impressed by the union’s 3,000-volume library.

“Knock them off — one or two at a time.”

Haywood expresses concern to Boyce over Moyers’ seeming timidity. Pickle infiltrates the union and gains the confidence of Moyer. A drunken Moyer tells Pickle that Haywood’s aggressive tactics “will put a noose around my neck.” Later that night, Pickle meets with Hawkins (the boss of a smelter mill) in a cemetery and hands him a document of some kind.

Haywood confronts Hawkins in his office over the dismissal of union activists. While at the mill, Haywood overtly identifies Pickle as a union supporter, sending a message that he knows Pickle is a spy. Pickle quickly leaves town — but not before he says goodbye to a brothel maiden, whose bed it becomes apparent both he and Haywood shared,

Haywood and Nevada Jane become more estranged as Haywood deals with his union work and Nevada Jane deals with her physical and psychic pain. Nevada Jane’s perky younger sister Winnie arrives to help care for her and tensions in the Haywood household ease a bit.

“Do you hear the roar of the working class! Do you hear the sound of our awakening!”

Bankers and other businessmen across the state form the Citizens Alliance to “battle” the WFM. Merchants who display pro-union sympathies are intimidated — some are roughed up, the businesses of others are ransacked. One outspoken merchant simply disappears. Meanwhile, Haywood makes time to spend with his children — especially Vernie.

Smeltermen win union recognition and better pay following a series of strikes. But within months, the deal falls apart. Ignoring Moyer’s orders, Haywood incites a massive strike by miners in support of the smeltermen. The strike — which chokes off the supply of ore the smelter owners need to stay in business — forces the bosses back to the bargaining table.

“Summon the general, Mr. Frank.

The Citizens Alliance forces the owners to renege on the deal and implores Gov. Peabody to deploy the state militia to squash “the insurrection.” When the governor balks at the cost of the deployment, the mine owners association offers to pay for it. Peabody accepts the offer. Gen. Sherman Bell, head of the militia — and a man of “Napoleonic proclivities” — also cuts a deal to supplement his income with a generous stipend to be paid by the mine owners.

Meanwhile, Haywood grows closer to his sister-in-law, Winnie, who has a heart of gold and a sympathetic ear. Haywood also finds his comfort in a bottle of whiskey. Vernie becomes withdrawn when she suspects her father is having an affair with someone in the WFM office.

The strike takes a violent turn when a mine is destroyed by an explosion. Scores of WFM members are arrested for the crime and armed Citizens Alliance vigilantes drive union miners out of Colorado City.

“To Hell with habeas corpus; we’ll give them post-mortems!”

The WFM organizes a boycott of every “saloon, brothel, and gambling parlor in the state until the vigilantes are brought to justice.” The Alliance responds by forcing merchants to deny credit for food and other essentials to strikers. But the plan backfires when the WFM opens union-run stores, which many people (not just strikers) patronize for their lower prices.

A pro-union district judge (in collusion with Haywood) issues bench warrants for 200 Citizen Alliance members. Gov. Peabody denounces the “activistic” judge and imposes martial law. Strikers and their supporters (including state legislators) are arrested by militiamen, beaten by vigilantes, and thrown into “bullpen” stockades. Pro-union newspapers are ransacked. Militia leaders refuse to obey a writ of habeas corpus issued on behalf of the bullpen prisoners. Bell receives a severed bloody hand wrapped in a threatening letter and accuses Haywood of sending it. Bell becomes even more aggressive in his tactics.

“Is Colorado in America?”

Haywood goes on a propaganda counter-offensive including dispatching men to photograph scabs with Kodak “Brownie” cameras. “Wanted” posters of the scabs are then posted across the district. Haywood also creates a poster depicting a U.S. flag with a bill of grievances written on its stripes that recount the “lawless” actions of the militia and the Alliance. Moyer goes on a fact-finding mission with Harry Orchard [a critical player in future episodes].

Moyer and Haywood are arrested for “flag desecration.” Haywood successfully defends himself at his trial by introducing evidence showing how the U.S. flag is blatantly used in commerce — even on Pinkerton business cards. Rocky discovers the bloody hand sent to Bell was from a cadaver and was sent by Wiley.

As they wait for a train, dozens of “scab” smeltermen and miners are killed and maimed when the train depot is destroyed by a bomb blast.

— END OF EPISODE THREE —

Episode 4

A Confederacy of the Working Class

“One of the rough, a cosmos, disorderly, fleshy, sensual, eating, drinking, breeding.”

Fall 1904: Gurley (age 14) and her best friend, Fred (age 14), travel on the Third Ave. “El” train between the Bronx and Lower Manhattan. Their discussion of Walt Whitman and Jack London reflects a mature intellectual curiosity as well as a radical bent. The rhythmic sound of the steam-powered elevated train’s steel wheels gives way to the rhythm of an Irish bodhran drum. On a freighter off the coast of San Francisco, Joe Hill and his shipmates sing the Irish ditty *Spanish Lady*.

Haywood and William Trautman, another union leader, discuss “the war” being waged against workers by “plutocratic capitalists.” They talk about creating “one big union” to unite the entire working class. Intercut is a montage of the train depot explosion [end of Episode 3] and its aftermath — vigilantes brutally rounding-up and roughing-up union men, destroying meeting halls, etc. Meanwhile, Rocky travels by train through Russia. We also see that Vernie has grown estranged from her father — a rift Nevada Jane tries her best to heal.

“It’s not the poor man’s fault he is out of work.”

Gurley (age 72) explains how the anthracite strike — and especially the mine owners belief they actually had a “Divine Right” to the coal — inflamed her passion for “making things right” for the working class. It was a passion, Gurley (age 72) tells her audience that was constantly stoked by her parents and led to her love of debate. Gurley wins acclaim in a school debate calling for the nationalization of the nation’s coalmines. Annie Flynn grudgingly accepts the fact that Thom is out of work again.

Joe Hill settles into life in San Francisco’s Barbary Coast district. Rocky continues his journey through Russia with a beautiful translator who beseeches him: “Tell me about what democracy is.” Haywood successfully works to defeat Gov. Peabody in his bid for reelection. Teddy Roosevelt wins his election in a landslide and warns of the evils of socialism.

“We are impoverished and despised. We are not recognized as human beings.”

As Annie and Young Bina walk along posh 5th Ave. to visit a wealthy suffragette, Bina asks her mother “where do all the devils live?” The songs of Christmas carolers on the gilded street give away to protest anthems in the Flynns’ Bronx neighborhood saloon.

In January 1905, Haywood, Moyer, Mother Jones, Eugene Debs, and others meet in Chicago to draft a “manifesto” calling for the formation of a new labor organization. Fr. Thomas Hagerty, a Catholic priest, is instrumental in drafting the document. A few weeks later, in St. Petersburg, Russia, an Orthodox priest leads hundreds in a march to present a petition to Czar Nicholas II calling for workers’ rights. The marchers are attacked by Cossacks, leaving 100 people dead (including Rocky’s translator). Hundreds more are wounded. [The event would soon become known as “Bloody Sunday” and mark the start of Russia’s 1905 Revolution.]

“The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.”

Haywood spreads “the word” of the manifesto and the need for a militant labor movement in speeches he makes across the West. Meanwhile, Samuel Gompers, head of the mainstream labor federation, the AFL, denounces the manifesto by declaring, “its only purpose is to divert, pervert, and disrupt the labor movement in order to promote the goals of socialism.” Haywood is equally virulent in his steady harangues against the “labor traitors” of the AFL.

“Fellow workers, this is the Continental Congress of the Working Class,” proclaims Haywood, opening the convention that will create the IWW. The Chicago gathering in June of 1905 showcases a hodgepodge of some 200 disgruntled activists — militant unionists, weary immigrants, and socialist intellectuals. Rocky, just back from Russia, calls the spectacle “the greatest conglomeration of freaks that ever met to plan a revolution.”

Six days later — seen in montage — after hours of debate, boring reports, and revolutionary platitudes, the IWW is born. Its membership — unlike the AFL — will be open to all wage earners the delegates declare. As Haywood puts it: “It doesn’t matter if you’re a white man, or a Negro, or a woman, or an American, or not one. We stand together now as one. We are the workers of the world. We have a purpose. We have a plan.”

“Father Hagerty has a wheel of fortune.”

“We want full manhood suffrage and we want it now! We are men! We want to be treated as men!” declares W.E.B. DuBois in a secret meeting of Black intellectuals. DuBois blasts capitalists for using Blacks as strikebreakers but then tossing them aside. He also attacks the inherent racism of the AFL and its unions. Pickle, the Pinkerton, spies upon the gathering.

Fr. Hagerty and others spread the gospel of the new IWW to mining camps, mill towns, and seaports. Joe Hill is nearly seduced by the Wobbly message but is forced to quickly leave an organizing rally when his cousin tells him, “Joe, I did something stupid.” An early recruit to the IWW cause is Jack Jones, a WFM organizer [who will marry Gurley in Episode 7].

Nevada Jane, enticed by an advertising slogan for a remedy claiming it can “make the coward brave, the silent eloquent, and render the sufferer insensitive to pain,” becomes addicted to the patent medicine — laced with cocaine. Winnie returns to help her sister out.

“You do know how to hold hands, don’t you?”

Gurley’s and Fred’s “puppy love” awkwardness is clearly on display when they visit Emma Goldman who teaches the two to dance. Gurley becomes bedridden from complications of an abscessed tooth. She uses the time to devour books of political theory, radical thought, and daring literature. Meanwhile, Vernie confides in Winnie that she fears her father is having an affair. Winnie dismisses the notion, putting Vernie’s mind at ease.

Seen in the final scenes are former Idaho governor Steunenberg heading home from his job as a banker on a snowy day and Henry Orchard [a minor character in Episode 3] heading out on a mission of his own. Just as Steunenberg opens his home’s front gate, a bomb explodes.

— END OF EPISODE FOUR —

Episode 5

An East Side Joan of Arc

“McParland, was him what framed ’em.”

Early 1906: Haywood, Moyer, and another man, Pettibone — seemingly alone — ride in a rail passenger car across Colorado as dawn just begins to break. None of them speaks. The steady muffled churning sound of the beastly iron horse offers up a soft rhythm that soon gives way to the beat of an Irish bodhran drum. Thom Flynn leads a group of men singing Irish protest anthems in his neighborhood saloon.

Meanwhile, Gurley (age 15) and Fred (age 15) pass out leaflets in front of the Unity Congregation on New York’s Madison Ave. and discuss the “free love” theories of Emma Goldman. At the Wunderlust Saloon and brothel in San Francisco’s notorious Barbary Coast district, Joe Hill hears the tale of the martyrdom of members of the radical Molly Maguires.

Inside the Unity Congregation, Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost denounces prohibitionists as “vile political operatives hiding under the cloak of piety.” In Boise, Idaho, (seen in flashback) former governor Steunenberg is assassinated opening his front gate [see Episode 4]. Pinkerton chief detective James McParland is hired to track down Steunenberg’s assassin(s).

“What socialism will do for women.”

Gurley, her family, and scores of others march down Madison Ave. to commemorate Russia’s “Bloody Sunday.” Gurley becomes intoxicated on the atmosphere of the day. “If this is what love feels like, I’m in love,” says Gurley. “I’m in love with protest.” Gurley becomes increasingly drawn into the socialist world, impressing many with her insight. Thom displays a bit of jealousy toward Gurley when she is asked to speak before the Harlem Socialist Club.

In Idaho, McParland arrests Harry Orchard and begins to interrogate him. In San Francisco, Joe Hill falls deeply in love with Bella, a Barbary Coast prostitute, and tries to persuade her to leave the Wunderlust brothel. At the Harlem Socialist Club, Gurley wins praise — and some press coverage — for her speech on the meaning of socialism for women.

“They’ll never get out of the state alive.”

Harry Orchard confesses to McParland and implicates Haywood, Moyer, and Pettibone as coconspirators in the assassination plot. McParland readies a “special train” in Denver.

Still smitten with Bella, Joe Hill rewrites the lyrics to the Irish tune *Spanish Lady* and sings it to her as the sun sets on the waters of the Golden Gate. The Wanderlust’s madam tells Bella that Hill’s a “good Joe.” But Bella pines for the dapper Duke — one of her regular johns.

In the dead of night, Haywood, Moyer, and Pettibone are arrested by deputies in a swift clandestine action directed by McParland — Haywood is found in bed with Winnie. The three men are refused any contact with their family or lawyers and are secretly spirited away by train to Boise, Idaho. They are put on “death row” of the state penitentiary.

“Come with me now, my girlie; don't sleep out in the cold.”

Nevada Jane, Winnie, and the wives of Pettibone and Moyer try to comfort one another in a scene of awkward silence. Each — in their individual way — is aware of Haywood's past indiscretions. (But only Nevada Jane knows the full of extent of his transgressions.) Eugene Debs, Clarence Darrow, and others condemn the “kidnapping” of Haywood and the others.

The great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 strikes the city on April 18, destroying the Barbary Coast. Bella is trapped behind a wall of flame while Duke pulls up his pants and flees — leaving Bella behind to her certain death. Hill braves fires and falling rumble trying to find Bella. Hill rescues Duke who tells him he has “no clue where that whore of yours is.”

Jack London and Joseph Ettor [a significant character in future episodes] join others on a hillside watching San Francisco burn. The next day, Joe Hill sits in the same spot above the smoldering city singing *White Slave*, his mournful ballad blaming “bosses who pay starvation wages” for enticing women into the decrepit world of prostitution.

“Breathe deep. Use your diaphragm as a bellows.”

During her summer break from high school in 1906, Gurley travels the East Coast as an IWW operative (seen in montage) supporting strikers and inspiring them with her gift of oratory. Gurley is tutored in the art of “street speaking” by a seasoned agitator.

Gurley, her father, and others are arrested during a street demonstration on Broadway. Rev. Pentecost (an attorney) represents the group. The judge scolds Gurley, telling her she was wasting her time trying to convert the “Tenderloin riffraff.” The judge then dismisses the charges, telling the prosecutor: “Better some socialism than suspicion of oppression.” The little-known editor of *Broadway Magazine* — Theodore Dreiser — writes of the arrests and Gurley's growing stature as an orator. He titles his piece: “An East Side Joan of Arc.”

“I don't want to be an actress.”

Broadway producer David Balasco is impressed by Gurley's maturity and eloquence. He tells Annie that Gurley has the makings to be a theatrical star and wants her to be part of a “labor play” he is producing. But Gurley tells him: “I want to say my own words and not repeat over and over again what someone else has written. I want to speak my own piece.”

Gurley becomes bored with high school and longs for a life devoted to activism. So — with the grudging support of her parents — Gurley drops out of school to devote her energies to the IWW cause. Gurley tries to persuade Fred to join her, but he is too devoted to his studies.

Gurley continues to speak about the role of socialism in the lives of women. She is regularly invited to the Lower East Side's Liberal Arts Club where she discovers — as Gurley (age 72) tells her audience — “a whole new world of Jews without money.” Gurley befriends a mute prostitute (younger than Gurley). And soon after, in an unnerving and frightening encounter with the madam of the house, Gurley learns that rhetoric, intellect, and idealism alone cannot change the cruel realities of life and its ever-present dangers.

— END OF EPISODE FIVE —

Episode 6

The Trial of the Century

“Would Jesus forgive the sins of a man to save his life?”

Christmastime 1906: Clarence Darrow travels by train from Chicago to Boise, Idaho, and dozes off to the sound (OS) of *Good King Wenceslas* being sung by carolers. In Spokane, Wash., Joe Hill enters a Salvation Army mission and joins down-and-out carolers singing the same tune. In Denver, Nevada Jane listens to a Christian Science sermon denouncing the practice of exchanging Christmas gifts; while at home, Winnie gives Etta and Vernie presents.

Darrow is startled awake, haunted by a nightmare of his boyhood images of his father’s undertaking business. Outside Darrow’s window, the scene dissolves from winter into spring.

Father Haggerty visits Haywood whose prison cell is full of law books and socialist texts. Meanwhile, Darrow appeals to Nevada Jane to come to Boise with her daughters for the duration of the trial — just as Pettibone’s and Moyer’s wives had done. “I am not like them, and my relationship with Bill is not like theirs,” Nevada Jane tells him. Teddy Roosevelt creates a firestorm of leftist protest when he calls Haywood an “undesirable citizen.”

“To this inner circle, murder became a trade, and assassination a way of living.”

Gurley is a featured speaker at a May Day rally supporting Haywood. Afterward, Gurley joins Czech anarchist Hippolyte Havel and others dining at Luchows (a favorite haunt of Greenwich Village radicals). Havel overtly flirts with the 16 year-old Gurley, while others in the group signal their discomfort and disapproval. Gurley is both flattered and uneasy.

Darrow and his defense team discuss an “assessment” report of potential jurors. William Borah, the lead prosecutor, similarly analyzes the jury pool. (Darrow’s “jury consultant,” it also becomes apparent, is a prosecution spy.) During jury selection, Borah objects to every union member and Darrow objects to every businessman — yielding a jury of 12 farmers.

Prosecutor Jim Hawley opens the trial by portraying Haywood, Moyer, and Pettibone as members of an “inner circle” bent on perpetuating their own power within the WFM and ultimately taking control of every mining community for their own personal gain. Darrow paints the trial as an inquisition led by bankers out to crucify Haywood. The press covering the trial offer disparate viewpoints fueled by their own (and their newspaper’s) partisanship.

“The act is always greater than the sum of its words.”

Haywood and Orchard testify (intercut with other witnesses). Haywood proves to be a formidable and unflinching witness when Borah questions him for five hours. Conversely, Orchard is easily shown (by both the prosecution and Darrow) to be an utter scoundrel.

The courtroom’s decorum is disrupted when Ethel Barrymore enters to join the spectators’ gallery. Barrymore invites Rocky to her hotel room for an interview in which she critiques Darrow’s “performance.” Rocky becomes a blithering idiot in the presence of Barrymore.

“Bill Haywood can’t die unless you kill him.”

Darrow appeals to the jury’s own sense of class in a closing argument (seen in a series of dissolves) that lasts for 11 hours on a hot summer’s day. “If you decree his death,” he tells the jury of farmers, “amongst the spiders and vultures of Wall Street will go up paeans of praise for the twelve good men of Idaho who killed Bill Haywood.”

Borah paints Steunenberg’s assassination as anarchy’s “bloody triumph” in his summation (which lasts for more than five hours). “We are not fighting organized labor,” he cries. “We are not fighting the weak and the poor. We are fighting those who use terror as a weapon.”

“Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon a verdict.”

As the jury deliberates, Darrow prepares Haywood for the worst. Haywood presents his wife with a small pillow he’s filled with rose petals collected on his daily walks in the prison’s exercise yard. Mrs. Pettibone summons up to courage to ask for Nevada Jane’s forgiveness for a past affair with Haywood. “I forgave you long ago,” Nevada Jane replies and then asks: “But please tell me: Was he kind to you?”

Jurors deliberate for nearly 24 hours in a “firebox” of a room. In balloting (in montage) the votes change little — “Eight to two, with two abstaining.” (We do not know whether the majority is for a verdict of “guilty” or acquittal.) At 6 a.m., they finally unanimously agree.

Haywood embraces each juror on his acquittal. Borah is dumbstruck. Hundreds march through Boise in celebration. Thousands welcome Haywood back to Chicago in an even grander parade. Teddy Roosevelt calls the outcome a miscarriage of justice.

“I’m... Gurley... My name is Gurley Flynn.”

Haywood sits at his dining room table stacked with congratulatory messages and requests for speaking engagements — which offer extraordinary monetary rewards. Nevada Jane is confused and upset when Haywood declines them all, and instead, accepts an offer from the Socialist Internationale to tour Europe giving speeches for a modest fee.

Gurley’s celebrates her 17th birthday surrounded by her father’s Socialist friends. Annie Flynn is concerned that Gurley is taking her life much too seriously and bemoans the fact that “no one under forty” attended her birthday party. “Lizzie” Flynn meets Jack Jones at the 1907 IWW convention — and for the first time — introduces herself as “Gurley.”

Winnie reads a letter to Etta and Vernie from their father (now in Europe) as carolers sing outside. Nevada Jane attends a Christian Science sermon. A letter from Jack Jones arrives inviting Gurley to join him in Minnesota. Joe Hill sings *She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain* on a picket line at a Spokane brewery while prohibitionists hold their own protest nearby. A Salvation Army band disrupts the strikers’ picket line. Annie presents Gurley with a red cape she’s tailored. Joe Hill sings “you’ll get pie in the sky when you die” in a song skewering the Salvation Army.

— END OF EPISODE SIX —

