

The Land Whale Murders

Chapter 7: Sonata in G Mynah ... Bird

AUTHOR

The Four Elementals are not doing well. Hiram Blut was murdered. Eugene and Anjus were tied up by the Blow Hole Gang and Maryanne has serious writer's block. I know we didn't really discuss that, but it's true. But Eugene and Anjus' predicament is our utmost concern as they're tied up and at the mercy of Pirate Penny. Her heels clicked on the cement floor as several of her goons tend to a bucket of jellyfish.

7.1:

ANJUS

[Mumbles through her gag.]

EUGENE

Right sure, but what you didn't realize Anjus was I can't understand you with that gag in your mouth.

PIRATE PENNY

Silence! I see you perfectly fell for my trap.

EUGENE

Perfect? Aww.

PIRATE PENNY

Too bad you won't live long enough to enjoy it.

EUGENE

Question.

PIRATE PENNY

Yes?

EUGENE

Are you actually Henry B. Lubbins? Let me finish ... the third?

PIRATE PENNY

How I shall delight in your death.

EUGENE

Notice she didn't say 'no.' I think this mystery is wrapping itself up.

ANJUS lets out an annoyed muffled noise.

PIRATE PENNY

Retrieve ... the jellyfish!

GOON 1

Just put on this here glove and fish the fella out. Got 'em!

GOON puts on a rubber glove and gets the jellyfish out of the bucket.

PIRATE PENNY (cont.)

Behold the sea wasp – delicate little thing, but with quite the sting!

EUGENE

Oh that rhymes!

PIRATE PENNY

This little piece of goo is capable of killing 60 men in 3 minutes!

EUGENE

Is that 20 per minute or all at once?

PIRATE PENNY

Your death will be the sweetest of all.

EUGENE

Or maybe it's 3 men over 5 then carry the one and –

GOON moves toward EUGENE.

EUGENE

Oh wait! Help! I don't want to die! I haven't tried kale yet!

PIRATE PENNY

I'd love to stay and watch you scream but I have pressing business. The Land Whale awaits!

(To the Goons.) No mercy boys.

PIRATE PENNY exits.

GOON 1

I'm gonna enjoy dis.

GOON 2
Any last requests?

EUGENE
Don't kill us?

GOON 1
Oh. Huh. Hey Terry, we gotta honor dat request?

GOON 3
Well ain't that a moral quandary ...

GOON 2
A real pickle.

GOON 1
Let's take a straw poll. All those in favor of honoring it? Opposed? Split 3-3. Once again voting solved nothing.

GOON 3
Tells ya what, let's ice 'em den go ask Father Magillicuddy and his fancy bible what he thinks.

GOON 1
Woiks for me. Now to jelly these joiks!

EUGENE and ANJUS struggle as the GOONS advance.

AUTHOR
The goons moved in holding out the deadly jellyfish. But just as all hope seemed lost –

Sound of a marble being shot, it hits one of the goons.

GOON 1
Ow! Someone shot a marble in my non-patched eye!

GOON 2
But who?

THE BIG STICK
But whom. Me whom.

AUTHOR

A man leaps from the shadows. He wields a large wooden staff. He's masked and wearing a pajama like costume. He smiles a gap-toothed grin.

BIG STICK

Stand down villain! Your criminality is at an end point!

GOON 1

Da fug?

GOON 3

I second my chum's query.

BIG STICK

As evil grows – so does good! This city screams for a hero and I answer the call. I am ... THE BIG STICK!

GOON 2

The big nutter is what you are.

BIG STICK

Nuts ... to your nuts!

Big Stick smashes the Goon in his groin.

GOON 2

Ow, my sea beans.

GOON 1

Get that no good do gooder!

The GOONS and the BIG STICK fight. He manages to beat them all, beating them with his stick.

EUGENE

Wow! Hotcha! Yow. That's gotta hurt! Yes! Nice! Watch out! He watched it! Got 'em! Pow! Biff! He's got them all!

BIG STICK

With villainy now dispatched I twirl my stick in celebration!

Twirls his stick. It gets out and clatters to the ground.

BIG STICK

Meant to do that! So close! (Turns to Eugene and Anjus.)

No need to fear me citizens, I know good eggs when I see them. (To the Heavens.)

But be warned –

GOON 3 groans, cutting him off.

BIG STICK

Don't interrupt, blackguard!

BIG STICK beat him again.

BIG STICK

Where was ... no need to fear me citizens, I –

GOON 3 groans again.

BIG STICK

Ugh!

BIG STICK savagely and brutally beats GOON 3 far too much probably fatally.

BIG STICK

(While beating him.) DO! NOT! INTER! RUPT!

(Finishes. Resets.) There! OK, again.

(Really rushing through it.)

No need to fear, citizens, good eggs, etc. etc. (Then really relishes it.)

But be warned Fish Monger your reign of evil shall end at the end of the Big Stick's big ... end!

AUTHOR

And with that The Big Stick used his stick to untie Anjus and Eugene which took longer than untying them regularly but they were just relieved and excited to meet New York's first and only super hero ...

EUGENE

You're incredible! The way you knocked those numbskulls!

ANJUS

Right, thanks, but I don't think there's such a thing as The Fish Monger.

BIG STICK

Phooey! He's my arch nemesis! Don't be fooled, he's as deadly as 3 day old deviled eggs. They were supposed to be thrown out! But um. Can you stop hugging me?

EUGENE

Your costume is so soft.

BIG STICK

Let me use my stick to pry you off. And there! Oooh you got a stain on it. I should have some bicarbonate powder in my Stick-ility belt. Let me see if I can get to it before it sets.

BIG STICK works on getting out the stain as Eugene turns to Anjus.

EUGENE

But no thanks to you Anjus!

ANJUS

I can explain ...

EUGENE

Don't! I have it all figured out! You're behind all of this – you're Pirate Penny!

ANJUS

What?

EUGENE

It was quite the plan. Kidnapping yourself, if you'd killed yourself it'd have been perfect but –

ANJUS

Eugene.

EUGENE

Yes?

ANJUS

There's no way I could be Pirate Penny. First off she doesn't have a prosthetic hand like me.

EUGENE

There's ways around ...

ANJUS

Second, I could never run a gang, I have terrible organizational skills.

EUGENE

True I remember that surprise party –

ANJUS

WE PROMISED NEVER TO SPEAK OF THAT! Um. Anyway ... lastly you saw her and me together ... at the same time.

BIG STICK

She's got you there.

EUGENE

But, but that note! You said – it's not a treat to be tricked, Anjus!

ANJUS

I had to. To protect ... them.

BIG STICK

Who?

ANJUS

I have a horrible secret ...

EUGENE

You're Pirate Penny!

ANJUS

No! No. It's much deeper and ... I can only achieve sexual and emotional fulfillment from plants. I thrill to chlorophyll ...

EUGENE

I don't understand.

ANJUS

I get relief from a leaf. I pine for pine, I heater to cedar, I burn for a fern, acorn-ography is my –

EUGENE

Oh! I see. Wait, I don't get it.

ANJUS

I'm a florosexual. Somehow Pirate Penny knew my weakness, she made me write that note.

EUGENE

She must be after Maryanne next! What time is it?

BIG STICK

Almost 8AM, this late night rumble turned into an early morning tumble.

ANJUS

She has that breakfast reading at the Salmagundi Club ... we'd never make it in time.

EUGENE

Not to mention at this hour the West Village streets are full of the Portuguese and I have that deep fear of the Portuguese!

BIG STICK

Don't worry my slightly xenophobic friend, no Iberian strikes fear into the Big Stick, I'll save your friend from the fishy fingers of the Fish Monger!

ANJUS

Pirate Penny, not the –

BIG STICK

You don't need to thank me.

ANJUS

I was correcting you –

BIG STICK

You're welcome! But now I go. Big Stick! Big Exit!

Big Stick makes a dramatic exit.

ANJUS

Do I disgust you Eugene?

EUGENE

Why? Oh cause of the whole – tree, tree in the – no. More confused. But it doesn't change anything. You're my friend. My compatriot. Some people even consider me unusual. Me! Good ole Eugene! But you – you're still all cream in my coffee book.

ANJUS

Thank you.

EUGENE

Water under the – but if you're not Pirate Penny, then – of course! Henry B. Lubbins! The Third!

ANJUS

Pirate Penny hates Lubbins! I overheard them talking about Project Land Whale.

EUGENE

Land Whale? What's that?

ANJUS

It sounded like some sort of weapon.

EUGENE

They'll probably use it against Big Whale Oil. We should warn Lubbins ... but.

ANJUS

But what?

EUGENE

But what: he scares me. A lot. And he's also a top shelf jerk.

ANJUS

The shelf level of his jerkitude doesn't matter if he's in trouble; it's our scientific duty to warn him. And maybe he can help us.

EUGENE

You're right, for science. To the Financial District!

ANJUS

We're already in the Financial District.

EUGENE

Oh I thought this was TriBeCa.

ANJUS

What's that?

EUGENE

The triangle below Canal Street. I like to come up with little names for areas in the city. NoHo, UWS, FiDi, EaHa, MuGu, MiTo, and DiFroTWaSqArUpTaMaPa.

ANJUS

DiFroTWaSqArUpTaMaSquaPa?

EUGENE

Direct From The Washington Square Arch Up To Madison Square Park.

ANJUS

That is a bustling neighborhood.

EUGENE

Ain't no soiree like a DiFroTWaSqArUpTaMaPa soiree because a DiFroTWaSqArUpTaMaPa soiree never stops.

ANJUS

Let's just get to the Blubberton office.

AUTHOR

And with that they hurried over to Blubberton. Eugene further explained exactly where Tribeca was located and that it was more a trapezoid than a triangle but TraBeCa didn't have the same ring to it. Eugene and Anjus slipped into Lubbins' office. The whale oil lamps burned low and its windowless dark wood interior felt spookier than usual.

7.2:

EUGENE

It's dark.

ANJUS

Like a robber baron's soul.

EUGENE

Hey 'not all robber barons,' my brother Pugene is a lumber baron.

ANJUS

You have a brother named Pugene?

EUGENE

Yeah, I – yipes there he is. He's being all tough with his chair turned away, staring at that giant sperm whale head. I bet he's waiting to spin around and scream at us. He loves screaming.

ANJUS

This is no time for a game of spinny-screamy. Lubbins! We think someone is trying to kill you!

They wait.

EUGENE

He must really be saving his vocal chords for a barbaric yawp.

ANJUS

Lubbins this is serious!

EUGENE

Let me just go and spin him around and ... oh bird turds.

EUGENE spins Lubbins around.

AUTHOR

The chair spins ... and there sits Lubbins – an octopus wrapped around his face. It has choked him ... to death.

ANJUS

Is that?

EUGENE

Octopus! He's been octopussed!

ANJUS

Is he?

AUTHOR

Eugene peeled the octopus away revealing Lubbins purple face frozen in the fear of death-by-tentacle terror.

ANJUS

Dead?

EUGENE

Very dead.

ANJUS

This is bad.

EUGENE

Well. Yes. But maybe. Maybe. Ah-ha! Maybe he killed Hiram and the guilt ate him up inside until he committed suicide by cephalopod and we just both dreamed the whole Pirate Penny thing and we're all safe and sound and everything is peaches.

ANJUS

There's a note ... (Reads.)

"When one strikes the sea, The Land Whale calls for thee." Signed, "P.P."

EUGENE

P.P.? Peter Piper! Damn him and his delightfully picante pickled peppers!

ANJUS

Pirate Penny.

EUGENE

Right, that makes more sense. I mean pickled peppers are –

ELLIS enters.

ELLIS

Mr. Lubbins I -- oh! Murder! Murderers! You murdered him!

EUGENE

No. Shhh. Shut. Shut up that mouth of –

ELLIS

Security! Security!

ANJUS

There's a good explanation for –

ELLIS

Tell it to the coppers! I'll see you both hanged! Lubbins was a saint!

ANJUS

Saint? Really? I mean don't speak ill of the dead, but – um, Eugene, let's run.

EUGENE

No we need to straighten this out. You see –

ELLIS

Oh Lubbins! Assassins! You're!

EUGENE

No it's –

ELLIS keeps sobbing and yelling as Eugene tries to explain but finally Eugene gets fed up and –

EUGENE

KARATE!

EUGENE karate chops Ellis, he falls to the ground.

ELLIS

My bread basket, it's been chopped Karate style!

AUTHOR

Just then the giant sperm whale's mouth opened and several security guards rushed in!

SECURITY GUARD

It's them the obvious murders!

ANJUS

Run?

EUGENE

Run!

AUTHOR

And with that Eugene and Anjus ran.

Sound of them running as they're being chased by security blowing their whistles.

AUTHOR

Meanwhile outside workers were carrying a very large vase under the guidance of an Art Dealer.

7.3:

DEALER

That's it, carry that very delicate ancient vase across this bumpy street.

MOVER

You got it, boss.

AUTHOR

At that moment Eugene and Anjus burst from the Blubberton building and down the street as they were chased by the security guards. Luckily they completely missed the vase.

DEALER

That commotion left the Scythian vase unscathed! But I needed it to break for my insurance scheme to work! I hate those no vase smashing runners! Get them!

MOVER

Should we chase them while carrying the vase?

DEALER

Yes! Quickly!

AUTHOR

And thus the Art Dealer and vase handlers gave chase! Eugene and Anjus had already turned down another street where they bumped into some Bowery Boys.

BOWERY BOY

Uf!

EUGENE

Sorry!

ANJUS

Quick this way!

BOWERY BOY

No one bumps a Bowery Boy! Let's rough tumble these lolly-boglers!

AUTHOR

The Bowery Boys pulled out various stabbing knives and joined the chase. Which now went past the Financial District Police Station.

OFFICER 3

Captain! The Bowery Boys are going to beat up those two weirdies!

CAPTAIN

Beating up weirdies is our job! Get 'em!

AUTHOR

And so the police joined the chase! Anjus and Eugene quickly cut down Bowling Green and past the Customs House where the Port Collector and Bicycle Baron George Bidwell was about to mount his newly designed safety bicycle –

ANJUS crashes into him.

ANJUS

Sorry!

BIDWELL

How dare you! Wheelmen hop on your cycles and avenge me!

WHEELMAN

Pedal boys show that hornswoggler!

AUTHOR

And with that Bidwell's bicycling lackeys joined the ever larger mob chasing after Eugene and Anjus. One of the bikers got in close but Eugene and Anjus managed to run down a side street and right into the outdoor fruit and vegetable market! Where they crashed into a stack of potatoes -

EUGENE

Aww potatoes!

EUGENE and ANJUS crash through a pile of potatoes!

ANJUS

Just plow through that potato pile!

BOWERY BOY

Aww nerts! I'm slipping on these taters!

AUTHOR

A couple Bowery Boys crashed out on the spuds which were now all over the pavement. But the rest of the mob was still hot on Eugene and Anjus' heels!

ANJUS

They're all gaining on us!

EUGENE

Grab some of those apples!

ANJUS

Now what?

EUGENE

Toss 'em!

AUTHOR

Eugene and Anjus tossed apples behind them. Eugene also grabbed a banana but he didn't want to toss it so he pocketed it. But he was fine with tossing apples. One granny smith hit a group of angry doctors who were also chasing them for reasons I have not been able to figure out but chase them they did.

DOCTOR

Ow! This apple a day is keeping me away!

AUTHOR

But this didn't go over well with the apple merchants.

APPLE MERCHANT

Those are eatin' apples not tossin' apples! Get 'em Grunk.

GRUNK

GRUNK MAD! GRUNK PICK APPLES! NO MAKE MOCKERY OF MERCANTILE PROCESS!

AUTHOR

And thus the hulking apple slinging brute Grunk lumbered toward them swinging his giant fists!

ANJUS

Quick cut down meat vender alley! This way!

AUTHOR

And they did, but soon ...

EUGENE

Yipes I'm tangled up in all the dangling sausages!

MEAT MAN

Hey my tube steaks! Get him Minga!

MINGA

MINGA GRIND BONES AND FAT ALL DAY MAKE YUM YUMS!

EUGENE

Maybe if we head down – eep!

AUTHOR

But the hulking brute-ette MINGA grabbed Eugene!

GRUNK GRUNK CALLED DIBS ON PUNY MAN! GIVE GRUNK!

NO IS MINGA'S!

MINGA and GRUNK pull Eugene

MINGA

EUGENE

You're both pulling me apart!

ANJUS

I need to help Eugene – this suckling pig will make a heck of a club!

AUTHOR

And with that Anjus grabbed a whole suckling pig and bashed first Grunk and then MINGA. The shock of being socked by a roasted pig caused them to drop Eugene who used the lard soaked street to slide over to Anjus. With that they continued running as the rest of the angry mob continued the chase ...

GRUNK

THIS WHY NO ONE LIKE GRUNK?

MINGA

MINGA LIKE GRUNK.

GRUNK

OH. MAYBE WANT GO OUT?

MINGA

OUT WHERE?

GRUNK

LA TRAVIATA IS AT OPERA HOUSE! GRUNK IS SEASON TICKET HOLDER!

AUTHOR

Eventually they got married and their son became a Senator, but enough about them. Anjus and Eugene were losing pace against the angry mob.

ANJUS

I've got to lighten the load. This pig is slowing me down – get out here!

She tosses the pig.

EUGENE

I bet that's a lot lighter!

ANJUS

It would be even lighter if I weren't giving you a piggy-back ride.

AUTHOR

The tossed pig meanwhile landed right in front of a group of Rabbis.

RABBI 1

Oy what an insult, this pig! We must give chase!

RABBI 2

But as Rabbi Akiva said –

RABBI 1

But as the Talmud says –

AUTHOR

And they began to argue and did not join in the chase. But the Bowery Boys, Security Guards, Art Insurance scammer, workers, vendors, merchants, police, bicyclists, doctors, and others were all still heading toward Eugene and Anjus. The mob had split and were now closing in from all sides. From every street the angry throngs of New Yorkers closed in. They were cornered ...

ANJUS

We're cornered.

EUGENE

Quick that building!

ANJUS

What's that sign say?

EUGENE

Probably a historic plaque about George Washington sleeping there -- no time to read it! Get inside!

They head inside.

AUTHOR

But had they read the sign they'd have learned this was a condemned building and very unstable. Always read signs. Always. Also George Washington had spent the night there but he loved barging into people's houses and sleeping in their beds. Until one time he did it to a family of bears and that started the Shays Rebellion. But that's for another time.

The pissed off groups all ran in different directions not noticing that the source of their ire had vanished. Eventually they all tired and went back to being mad at something else. Meanwhile inside the condemned building Eugene and Anjus try to recoup and regroup.

7.4:

EUGENE

That was close.

ANJUS

Too close.

EUGENE

It's dark in here, let me light this candle.

He lights a stick of dynamite.

ANJUS

Um, Eugene ...

EUGENE

Yes?

ANJUS

That's not a candle that's a stick of dynamite.

EUGENE

Damn you Alfred Nobel you've once again bested me. Oh! I'll dunk it in this barrel of water –

He puts the dynamite in the barrel the water catches on fire.

EUGENE

Whoa that's not water! It's fire! What the bollywick!

ANJUS

It's spreading. And also throw that dynamite!

EUGENE

Oh right the mite!

He throws it. A beat then it explodes. There's a deep rumble.

ANJUS

That was a load bearing wall I bet.

EUGENE

The only clear path is upstairs! Quick!

AUTHOR

And with that they ran up to the top floor. But there's no way out ...

ANJUS

We're doomed.

EUGENE

Wait, look!

Sounds of the fire wagon. LES Hook and Ladder 7 arrive.

ANJUS

It's the firemen! We're saved!

Another siren. FI Hook and Ladder 12 arrive.

EUGENE

Oh and another fire company!

LADDER 7 FIREMAN

Hey mac, this our zone!

LADDER 12 FIREMAN

Check your zoning map, dis is FD latter 12 territory!

LADDER 7 FIREMAN

Up your alley it's Lower East 7's patch!

Why I oughta!

They start fighting.

LADDER 12 FIREMAN

ANJUS

They're just fighting each other!

EUGENE

I guess they're less firefighters and more firefighter fighters. Ha! I roasted them.

ANJUS

Yeah but now we're going to be roasted for real.

Sound of some of the roof crumbling.

EUGENE

I always knew I'd die in a fire, but I always hoped it would be in a nicer building, surrounded by my children.

ANJUS

There's so many plants I haven't fondled ... well. Goodbye Eugene.

EUGENE

Goodbye Anjus.

The fire grows the roof starts to crumble.

END OF CHAPTER 7