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Hollywood Proved Columbus Wrong

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JENNIFER GRATHWOL

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These familiar foreign scenes—

Black Forest made of green trees, Roman ruins,
and a woman selling flowers in the street.

Cut.

These scenes—

I've already seen on ten hundred screens

seen with my eyes

before my hands

before my feet

could possibly reach these far-off places

that seem familiar

like a wedding,

or giving birth,

for both I know my lines,

my cues,

because I've already seen

(on ten hundred screens)

what these moments should be.

Cut.

These familiar foreign scenes

now for me what can they mean—

when my eyes have swallowed

and made the world hollow

and flat on ten hundred screens.