

White pearls, hanging ears

- o but that sounds like a Maori name!
- o but you don't look it!
- o and what about you?
- o You have a Maori name too!
- o is that because you are part-
- o or half- or did your parents
- o have a special association
- o with a particular native
- o tree?
- o They've both left the room! o
- o Oh well.
- o What about you?
- o You've got that exotic look — o
- o That skin, those cheekbones o
- o They were -lish and -tish o
- o And they were -rish and -tch o
- o Well, you know, if only
those other people knew!
- o If they would just take the time
to get to know us they would o
- o realise they didn't come here free no!
- o we were oppressed in a system o
- o and told what to do
- o and we came over here and we
- o were told what to do o
- o It's the same! Same!
- o Just different
place you know
- o and if they knew more about that
maybe they maybe they
- o wouldn't be so angry so o angry
- o I mean
they don't realise our history
we carry hundreds no thousands
of years of domination I mean
your people were nearly murdered
off the face of this Earth
my people were starved
off the land and
- o we've all been dispossessed
raped and conquered into the next
generation of half-castes and humans
have always travelled

so we're the same! Same! o
o Anyway, shall we sit down and continue?
This is fantastic.
I feel like I'm speaking with myself.

Nicola Easthope

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