

Section 1

The Foragers

Fifty thousand years ago, the climate was much colder and drier and because so much water was retained in the polar ice, sea levels were perhaps seventy metres lower than today. A small bridge of islands emerged, separated by swamp, marshland and narrow stretches of open sea, between the Horn of Africa and Sudan, at the south-east end of the Red Sea. This area is known today as the Gates of Grief. One group of *Homo sapiens* came out of the continent via this route. These were the ancestors of all non-African modern humans.¹

¹ Oppenheimer, Stephen. *Out of Eden: The Peopling of the World*. Robinson. 2004.