

Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout Incoming Tide pp. 35 - 56 (For June 27th)

Do you have any associations with incoming tides? If you live on 'most' coasts you are familiar with the characteristics of the tide and different times of day and year.

5 So the title probably puts you into a personal kind of mode although the story will be read by people with so many different reactions to the same title.

Once you start reading, you may stop and listen. Do you think you hear the same as the fictitious Kevin hears? (p. 35, line 7)

10

I suggest you spend some time reading and rereading the first two or three pages.

wheezily - I'm sure this word isn't in the dictionary. If you have difficulty in breathe you (or your lungs) wheeze. Now listen to the screen door, the door to let the air in and keep the flies and midges out.

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Why should a man like Kevin return to his home town that he left at the age of 13? Is he really a stranger, do you think? (Whatever that means.)

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p. 36

sun-sliced - also not in the dictionary. :-)

rugosa - 'rose' I think. How does the smell of wild roses affect you? ('sad ignorance'? 'benign white pearls')



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Three months? Queasiness? = sadness?

booth - enclosed table and chairs, I expect

At the top we have 'sun-sliced'; at the bottom 'like a shadow crossing the sun' (an in between the muffins are 'yellow as rising suns').

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'Patty's mother had suggested. When Patty had been.....' : *Plusquamperfekt*. This tells you that this happened a long time ago, before the narrative in 'simple past'.

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p. 37 Do you remember being scared of kids when you were very small? Wise parents' reactions?

'You'll never guess who I saw she'd say' - she would say : future tense!

40

saunter - walk slowly and relaxedly

At the bottom of p. 37 please just pause and think about where the story might be heading!

45

p. 38 Do you have a chlidhood home with memories? (Why 'should have doubled their girth'? *Umfang*)

umbrage - offense, hurt, resentment

impatiens = fleißige Lieschen (I think) ('-ie?')
lapping - we often speak of this word. It is the gentle sound of not waves but ripples
50 arriving at the shore (Usually low-tide, but also the Havel at Wannsee etc. Gentle)

p. 39 What had his mother done? What does he plan to do?

state = Zustand - state of mind, how you are feeling (mentally)
55 trait = characteristic (*Merkmal, Eigenschaft*)

p. 40 enter Olive - 'memory of respect held him back'.

bucket seat - the shape of many car seats
60 hauled - you do this with something much bigger than a handbag - a boat, for example
p. 41 knuckles - *Knöchel* (?) (hand)

p. 42 wacky - crazy

p. 43 nutty - crazy

p. 45 pickings - (literally =)what you can pick; it canb mean the amount of money you
65 earn or the choice you have.

choppy - windy

p. 46 negligence - *Fahrlässigkeit*

p. 47 indefatigable - not-to-be-made-tired

p. 48 the wind had picked up - become stronger

70 turnpike - nowadays a road that pay to use

p. 49 The usage of words (like 'nutty') being discriminating is pretty controversial!

p. 50 goofy - here: stupid

p. 51 promising - *vielversprechend?*

John Berryman : <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-berryman>

75 "I stand above my father's grave with rage,
often, often before
I've made this awful pilgrimage to one
who cannot visit me, [who tore his page](#)
[out](#): I come back for more". Dream Song 384

80 p. 54 Save us...Dream Song 235

'Don't go, his mind said' : what has prepared us as a reader for this? At first (p.40) he
would have liked to 'wave her away'.

'Hope was a cancer inside him.'

85 Which images have stayed with you after reading this story?

Which are your favourite lines in the story?

Retrospectively do you find the construction, the structure of the story satisfying?

90

When we return to the 'if'-sentences we can ask : if Patty hadn't wanted to pick the
flowers.....