

Have you all been to New York?
Why is it so 'famous'? So attractive? So with it?

5

What are the various nicknames?
How old is it? (400)

Why 'science fiction city' 'built on A moon'?

10 Appeal? Before and after 9.11. (cf Solingen. Mohsin Hamid.)

NB she is 72 in this story. Henry had his stroke 4 years previously.

Strout influences us -

- 15 - in O's memory, Henry at the wheel. 'Now' he can't any more. (Four years since stroke)
- Lang: as fragile as....not eggs but kindergarten children. Cf complacency of cows ²⁵¹;
- O's personal reaction to 9.11
- showing us things from O's perspective
- use of word 'description' cf tells, narrates, shows etc.

20

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- not Anne's fault that picture takes so long to download
- contradiction. 'Request had not been put this way' - help.
- three day-stink like a fish. 20 minutes. Post Office - hold post.

25 NB everyone tells her it will be good for her! *A good time was not something Olive expected to have again.*²⁵¹ Henry : *a polite expression of thanks.*
(NB Portland is 5hrs north of NY by car. Boston is halfway. TINY plane)

30 Olive is so unbalanced - worried watch won't work; intimacy of having stocking-feet, falling in love, mothers should be proud of people on plane.
Greediness for life - she hadn't expected it. ('Needed', 'part of her son's life') B U T.
Easily confused. 'Could have wept at the darkness' 254.

Everywhere except her own house depresses her.

'Olive did not kiss people' (Ann is 'graceful as a truck driver' 259)

35 Perspective : T eats loudly 'appalling chewing sounds'. 269 'damn little staring baby'
Feels like a child. Wants to wail etc. 259 (first day)

Re Ann: book by its cover, bovine 260, baffling. Insecurity-stupidity.

('Sitting down again, hugely'. 262)

O:C - p. 263 sitting almost close. *A bright buoy bobbing in the bay...terror.*

40 Flashback - p. 264 only now do we get the real story of Olive and Jim. The first part was in the first story.²⁶⁶ 'A longing that felt at times unendurable. *But people endure things*'. NB she is mad AT Jim for dying. (20 yrs since Kübler-Ross died)

45 Christopher - furious, doctor-ish. Also two-sided - strict but also T = crap.
Sometimes talkative (re dogshit!); re Brooklyn 'mother dear' 258,(talkative)
Foolhardy? (263)
Mean re Jim and parrot 267.
He is not a fighter (says Olive) p. 272

50 Ann - big, walking girl-doll, simpleton, bigger than Olive. Horse.
Always begging the children not to cry :-)

D : 262 how desperately hard...working to get what they needed...sea of terror...
55 love..... ...never enough (?)
D : Olive had the sensation that she had been seen.(By Jim) 44.
D: rel Jim-Olive, bad cloth 267
D: O-C 268 he hopes. 'missed his mother'. Not a fighter so shouldn't be in NY?