

Town of My Farewell to You (casey)

I found that the repetition in this poem made it very difficult to search out meaning in the majority of the text. I researched the reference to a thousand blue thousand white but couldn't figure what if any historical significance the reference had. I think that the repetition and meaning of the words punned on a drawn out farewell. To the extent that Carson repeats the phrase I feel she is commenting on the everlasting elongated nature of a farewell. The listlessness that flows through the line gives the poem an undeniable melancholy that is personalized, town of farewell to *you*. Two arms extended blowing down the road, draws out the poem even farther, as if the departed is still slipping from a final embrace. Blowing down the road, finalizes the length of the poem, ever extending and reaching but never filling the gap between the speaker and the *you* of the title

Amendments

Town of My Farewell to You (tom)

Like Casey I also had a hard time finding any other significance other than an allusion to a long good-bye. Perhaps this is a way of ending out the section of this book and this poem intentionally helps us the reader say farewell to "The Life of Towns", perhaps I don't really know. I do know that the same words are repeated up until the middle of the second to last line and that from there on there is a break with the rest of the poem. Perhaps what this tells us is that though things may stay the same for a while change is inevitable. I also get the picture of someone traveling down a country road, perhaps leaving the "Towns" staring at the blue sky filled with little white puffy clouds spotting a windmill in the distance. This would coincide further with my hypothesis that this is a drawn out farewell to "The Life of Towns" which may even further be a saying goodbye to people and society to live in seclusion, which might fit Carson. Yet in the end who really knows, and if they do are they telling?

Town of My Farewell to You (tiffany)

I love the title of this thing because it seems to be Carson talking to the reader. In the introduction of this section, she ordered us to "move along" and peruse the various towns that exist. Now, she's saying farewell. We've reached the end of our journey. "You" equals the reader. I definitely agree with the interpretation of this specific poem in that it is a pun on the everlasting goodbye. No one likes to say farewell (unless the experience has been negative, which it hasn't in this case since we've been visiting these towns as readers). Thus, repetition serves to function as the repeating of "goodbye" as someone leaves. And the "two arms. / Blowing down the road." gives me a mental picture of someone reaching for a car or carriage that is headed off toward the distance, like someone doesn't want to let go.

Town of My Farewell to You (monte)

Without the title, this poem would again only be a rambling, luckily the title does give us that it is a farewell. Such a nice way to end her Life of Towns, with a farewell. I'm sure it would be interesting to see the order of all the towns, because I'm sure she intended significance.

Town of Greta Garbo. (mike)

This could definitely be construed as an overreaction to someone leaving. Carson is notorious for being sarcastic, and I think this poem is being that way. Garbo has been dead for a while, and she lived in complete isolation in the later part of her life, and I don't see how Garbo could be the "idol" that causes someone's back and legs (which are a person's most stabilizing body parts) to break. I think the last line is also playing off the homophone of hear (here). It seems to say that although the "idol" left the person is still "hearing" and is "still here." Life has not ended and they should get over their loss.

Town of My Farewell To You Amendment: (matt)

I think that is probably one of the best ways to interpret the poem, because otherwise the reference doesn't seem to make much sense. The only other thing I can think of with the blue and white is a checkerboard of clouds and sky, which doesn't quite fit with the title. And mocking long goodbyes certainly seems in character for Carson. Though the arms blowing down the road doesn't seem very elongated to me, it seems sharp and sudden, as if one of the two was suddenly swept off in the middle of this long goodbye.

Town of My Farewell to You (martin)

The way I read this poem started off slow. I had some caesura between the words in the first line "Thousand blue thousand white." Then when I saw that the thousands and blues and whites repeated over and over I read it fast. The wind written afterward seems to have picked up through this read. When I see a thousand blue and white I see a sky extending forever with white clouds interjecting every so often. The scenic description of a road and the weather description of the wind supports this read of the poem. "Today and two arms" sounds great together because of the to-day. Two arms blowing down the road gives an image of someone with their arms flailing in a run, which goes along with how the wind picks up and blows. You're right how the speaker never spells out their connection with the "you" from the title. That's interesting to note, I suppose it could be anyone and the poem's message would still be the same.

Town of My Farewell to You. (marina)

There is a certain double meaning to this whole poem, like there usually in all Carson's poems in this section, which makes sense it being the final one. On one hand, Carson is saying goodbye to us, the readers, but on the other hand there is a narrator within the poem as well as some "you" within the poem, so there are kind of two farewells being said, or at least I think so. I think that the many ways that the repetition of the "Blue thousand white thousand" suggests multiple interpretations and meanings of the incredibly ambiguous and unspecified words. Part of it is probably the act of saying "good bye" multiple times when one can't seem to let go, like the two hands in the poem, and the waving gesture. And My brain I think randomly ran away so I am going to stop now.

Town of My Farewell to You (craig)

The reference to wind in this poem makes me hear the word "blue" not only as a color, but also as a verb. This makes the first line of the poem sound like "look what a thousand blew". Then, after some repetition, I assume serving to confound and hypnotize the

reader, it says (with my own translation added) "White thousand blew wind today and two arms." Thus makes me think that white people did something to a non-white people as the color distinction is made. The reference to arms sounds to me like weapons rather than limbs, and the mention of "blue" seems to make those 'arms' missiles by tying them to the sky. Two rockets could easily be seen blowing down the road. Also, limbs ('arms') could be blown down a road if they were torn from a body and carried down the street with the force of an explosion. The frightening thing is that the poem sounds as if it were stammered out awkwardly by a four-year-old child, which makes me recall my kindergarten days of drawing pictures of Desert Storm as it was what I was seeing all the time. I don't know if she meant to draw these parallels, but they definitely had that effect on me.

Courtney (none)

Town of My Farewell to You (Allison)

When I thought of white and blue, blowing in the wind, I thought of the clouds, moving slowly across the sky. Maybe there were a thousand clouds in the sky? I don't quite understand the reference either, but like the idea of long drawn out good-byes. Two arms does sound like open arms for an embrace. And I'm sure it's not coincidence that this is the last poem in the "Towns" section of Carson's book. There is a song by Bob Dylan called "Ten Thousand Men," and the men are all dressed in oxford blue, and the women all dressed in white. It'd be a cool reference, but I can't even interpret the lyrics of Dylan's song, let alone tie it into how it might relate to Carson's poem, which it probably doesn't. The only other thought I had was that "blue" could be "blew" and then a thousand white winds blew something away. I really have no idea though, so I thought the analysis seemed pretty complete.

Town Of My Farewell to You (abby)

Though the image of clouds is very cliché, I believe Carson is using this image at least a little bit with the repetition of blue and white thousands. This would also tie into the idea that someone is leaving because time, along with clouds, are passing the people on their, as Dawn said, prolonged goodbyes. It's interesting that Carson uses such a prolonged goodbye, especially since in the introduction she ends with "now move along." a rather curt goodbye.