

● characters

● refrains

● notable structural elements

anyone lived in a pretty how town by e e cummings

Conventional layout -
Comparatively

Line #

1 anyone lived in a pretty how town (a) ^{how we (society) do things?} ^{internal rhyme} ^{the telling of the tale} Stanza # 1

2 (with up so floating many bells down) (a) anyone

3 spring summer autumn winter (x) - expected order of seasons

4 he sang his didn't he danced his did (x) ^{STRUCTURE: 2 IND. CLAUSES} ^{alliterative "d"} ^{someone celebrates failures and successes}

5 Women and men (both little and small) (b) ^{Some structure as L 33}

6 cared for anyone not at all (b) ^{They didn't like anyone. Why?} Stanza # 2

7 they sowed their isn't they reaped their same (c) women and men

8 an moon stars rain (c) ^{slant} ^{monosyllabic} ^{assonance} ^{The women and men liked everything to be status quo. anyone did his own thing.}

9 children guessed (but only a few) (d) Stanza # 3

10 and down they forgot as up they grew (d) children

11 autumn winter spring summer) (x) - a different order

12 that noone loved him more by more (x) ^{scycling through?}

13 when by now and tree by leaf (e)

14 she laughed his joy she cried his grief (e)

15 bird by snow and stir by still (x) - alliterative "s"

16 anyone's any was all to her (x)

* what happens when I substitute a name for anyone and a name for no one? (e.g. John and Sally) [It becomes a Love against the odds sort of story.]

* Cummings was anyone. He was a non conformist!

1) Pretty how town → how pretty a town!

↳ a pretty how town represents - ANY town EVERY town - Society at large?

(with up so floating...) → whatever this means might be true?? Anyone was a fellow who stood out from the crowd.

2) The Group/Society is united against the individual - anyone They were content (even protective of) their unchanging routine

and they "rained on anyone's parade", "blew out his candle" so to speak to maintain the status quo. I get the impression that they don't even want to think about individuality, let alone witness it in someone.

both little and small? They carry on through life (seasons)... in drudgery small minded?

3) Children (a "group" who is traditionally more open-minded than the adult set) were observant or intuitive enough to realize that no one loved anyone, but they lost the ability to see this as they grew up (progressed through the "seasons") more by more - opposite of little by little (a more common phrase)

[Anyone found love despite the group's rejection of him.] In fact no one's love for anyone continually grows! Anyone meant EVERYTHING TO NO ONE!

SIDE NOTE

→ The message could be drearer though. Perhaps the speaker is suggesting that Really, in this crazy world of ours that NO ONE (literally - no one) LOVES ANYONE because we are all selfishly absorbed fools - automatons...

i'm a sucker for an us against THEM love story.

★ I prefer the Love against all odds message though. 152

Line#

17 someones married their everyones x
 18 laughed their cryings and did their dance x
 19 (sleep wake hope and then) they x
 20 said their nevers they slept their dream x

Someones and everyones

II cont

bells - anyone

21 stars rain sun moon (variant refrain)
 22 (and only the snow can begin to explain
 23 how children are apt to forget to remember x
 24 with up so floating many bells down) x *with so many bells floating?*

children

ding dong!

25 one day anyone died i guess g speaker!
 26 (and noone stooped to kiss his face) g
 27 busy folk buried them side by side x
 28 little by little and was by was x

anyone and noone

29 all by all and deep by deep h
 30 and more by more they dream their sleep h
 31 noone and anyone earth by april x
 32 wish by spirit and if by yes. x

switches to present tense - why?

anyone and no one

Some structure as l. 5

bells again?

33 Women and men (both dong and ding) i
 34 summer autumn winter spring i → a new order again
 35 reaped their sowing and went their came
 36 n moon stars rain j

obv harvest moon
 snowflakes
 obv

women and men

193

cap

carves poems

5 + 6 The automatons live their boring, routine-driven, unthinking lives, even coupling, ~~to~~ ^{alone} to ^{an} fulfill ^{rather than because of love or desire} expectation! No passion. The children become dull, boring, predictable adults just as protective of their tedious, frigid, unbending lives.

Snow → cold, frigid, frozen in time??

7 + 8 anyone dies and I think no one does too and, as in life, they were an annoyance to the others in their town who have the job of burying their bodies. But also, as in life, anyone and no one were united and lived on eternally - together.

9 AND Life Goes on ...
everyone and someone learned NOTHING.

Sadly, forcing this poem into "translation" forces meaning to be lost!

How - How is it done? Know-how?

~~parenthetical phrasing~~
~~use of parentheses~~

Parenthesis

→ ~~the~~ Psychological insight

Typically indicates an aside of sorts, or an addition to ~~text~~ information

- 1 It is what it is. It could be true.
- 2 insight into the mind of a child
- 5 Some one's and everyone's mindset
- 6 children's mindset
- 7 what was no one doing?
- 9 ~~insight into speaker's mind~~ - dang and ding

Use of parenthesis

→ metonymy (a substitution) for men's women

* anyone / no one lead a joy-filled, passionate life, ruled by their own whims
* someones / everyone's live, dull, passionless lives, ruled by society's rules. 4
mechanical