

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Other Folk's Lives

A timed exercise

by Susan Tracy

Other folk's lives, other folks. People I know, those I don't know. People I know slightly, those I know fleetingly. People who don't look me in the eye, people who look troubled. Men with a limp, women with rounded shoulders and a hunched back. Women in high heels, women in jumpers. Smart women, untidy women.

Women with wispy hair, women with thick hair. women with coloured hair.

Women with unkempt hair...women with no hair at all.

Women in scarves, women in hats, toothless women, women who've had work done.

Faces plastered in makeup. Women with false eyelashes, with too much eyeliner, with too well defined eyebrows.

Women who have used their eyelash curlers, women who have neglected to do the above, yet have applied mascara onto straight eyelashes.

Decorated women (for women include girls) Women with bangles, with earrings. With earrings that are too large or too long, or which jangle when they move their head. Women who are trying to compensate for something. Other women who are just trying to get by.

People with problems, mental scars personality drawbacks, shy people. People for whom it is a constant struggle to get out of the house. People who cannot face the day without a sip, just a tiny sip..of alcohol.

Men who are alone. Men whose wives used to do everything for them, and now they are left alone. they eyes looks so sad. They are short of breath,

Thank you so much for talking to me, a lady said to me the other day. All the lonely people..!

Men is thick jumpers and socks tucked into their shoes, even though the sun is shining. Men who look up and whose eyes widen when you pass by and say, hallo! Good Morning?'

People in two's are the lucky ones. Is one walking slightly ahead of the other. If they are walking side by side..are they in deep conversation? People holding hands. Old people holding hands. that's a nice sight. People I have met today. Neal who has a large kia (which is a make of car) and he told me how cheap it cost to buy.

Annie, in her white dress and pink lipstick. Annie looks after the smalls at Goringes Auctions, Neil is a porter who takes bids of people. You see him bidding on their behalf. Some people are often absent, others just like too remain incognito.

I saw that lady who sells bric a brac in Cliffe. I told her how well she looked. 'Well I don't feel it, she said'

A man spoke to me after my little dog had had a little pee outside the Lewes Little Theatre...on the grass at the front. 'I hope you don't mind me saying...he began, but we have students who sit on this grass.

Please, say no more...I quite understand. I was just trying to read your poster. The Merchant of Venice. How thrilling ! I shall come and see it!