

1) Flying (page 7 à page 53 : 47 pages)

Two professors of English Literature : doctor Morris Zapp (American) and Philipp Swallow who isn't doctor (just master) are about to change places for 6 months (1969). Zapp goes at the University of Rummidge (middle reputation and not very rich) whereas Swallow goes at the University of Euphoria (very high reputation and very rich).

Swallow rarely takes the plane whereas Zapp used to take it (he is better-off and very confident even though he is a little bit paranoiac about the plane accidents). It's very an advantage for Swallow because he is well paid. Even though Zapp isn't as well paid (so he can't really survive with this amount), Euphoric adds him the difference. Swallow was miserable during the moment he tried to finish his thesis and married Hilary.

Swallow didn't really want to do this exchange (and gave some excuses : disturb students learning and he will be far from his family : 3 children) but Hilary and Gordon Masters encouraged him to do it.

Swallow met his old student Charles Boon in the plane (who was his 3rd year tutor) and both goes at Euphoria this year (even if it's the second year for Boon). Boon has his radio show that takes him lots of time. He is very familiar with Swallow and calls him "phil" (and also invited him on the show) but Swallow don't want to do so.

Zapp don't want to do this exchange as well even though he made himself an authority in the literature of England. His second wife Desirée wanted a divorce but Zapp doesn't because of their two children (twins). The discussion is very intense and it ended with Zapp who called Bill in other to move in Europe (and Bill proposed Rummidge).

2) Settling (page 55 à page 118 : 64 pages)

Both rented a room in private houses. Swallow enjoyed his very dynamic, at the same time technological and natural beautiful view whereas Zapp had a hard time to find a well-appointed room (and the priority : the heating).

The first day at the university : swallow entered in Zapp's office and first enjoyed the view, then he received the subject of his coming courses "writing in extended narrative". Zapp' entered in Swallow's office but the first thing he noticed was that the room was correctly warmed. He also noticed a tobacco cans collection that belongs to Swallow. He didn't even received his teaching program.

Zapp, a TV/radio addict installed a color TV in his room.

Swallow participated to a cocktail party and surprisingly met Zapp's husband : Desiree. They first talked about the feeling about letting their husband/wife and children back and then Zapp felt a little bit embarrassed about talking about the way he could glorify Rummidge. Then, they talked about the utility of education and

founding a family. Finally, when Mrs Zapp had to go, Swallow wanted to go back in the previous room but everybody already went home.

Zapp, in his office met Swallow's wife : Hilary. They discussed about Swallow and finally, she leaved the room while being embarrassed by the last thing Zapp said. Then, Zapp lent his car to the Dr. O'Shea.

Swallow went to the Hogan's party and slept with Melanie Byrd (he felt very guilty after this). When she left at the morning, Swallow asked Boon if he could see and speak to her.

Zapp, went to a strip tease room and when a girl was going to strip for him, Zapp discovered that she was someone he knew : Mary Makeplace. Consequently, she refused to strip for him and she got fired. So they had a drink together.

Swallow found Melanie and wanted to convince her to go back with him. She refused because she wanted to help another guy to find a place to sleep, and Swallow suggested to help him instead so she would at least be able to have a dinner with him

3) Corresponding (page 119 à page 151 : 33 pages)

When Hilary wrote to Swallow, she took news and she said the children were worried. She also thanked him because he gifted her some roses In her PS, she talked about the noise of the washing machine. Whereas, when Desiree wrote to Zapp, she was really surprised that he seemed to be human in his letter. And in the PS, she talked about Melanie. She also insisted in the divorce and Zapp wrote back to her in this subject. Moreover, in the PS, he replied about Melanie by asking her if she could find her adress.

Hilary wrote to Swallow and narrated him about the dinner when she invited Zapp. She said that he was very clumsy and impolite.

Zapp wrote to Désirée and told her that he felt very lonely and wanted to continue the discussion with her. Désirée replied by portraying perfectly Swallow and in PS, she replied about Melanie by saying that she couldn't find the address.

After this, things became more complicated. Hilary received an anonymous letter saying that Swallow slept with Melanie and Zapp also received this letter. It appeared that Melanie was Zapp's daughter by his first marriage. So Swallow assumed that he had slept with her and tried to explain it to Hilary. He said that it had no excuse even if he was a little bit drunk. But he added that it was just a story that had to be forgotten and he confirmed that Melanie became Boon's girlfriend and that he was sheltering Boon.

Zapp wrote to Désirée and told her that even if he wanted to make love to Mary Makeplace, she was already pregnant and he wouldn't do it and said that they were just good friends.

Hilary replied to Swallow and even if she seemed angry, she said that it was obvious and that she wasn't even thinking about a divorce. She also refused to come in Euphoria to speak with him face to face.

4) Reading (page 153 à 166 : 14 pages)

Some news :

The Plotinus Women's Liberation Movement / House slide / Rummidge Grand Prix proposed / Euphoric Prof and students arrested for brick theft / Militant students occupy Rummidge University assembly hall / Visiting prof and students discharged / Statement by chancellor binde / Defend the garden ! / Support the occupation / Police hold garden against demonstrators and injuries / Gardeners and cops, guardsmen clash in downtown plotinus / University at war, Rummidge professor warns / Riot victim Roberts dies student referendum / We accuse! We shall overcome ! / Professor resigns / Assembly hall teach-in / Rummidge schoolkids on students / Rummidge dons propose mediator / Earthquake cube / Chancellor proposes lease of garden, mayor has doubts, giant march planned for memorial day / Ice cube damages roof.

5) Changing (page 167 à 236 : 70 pages)

Swallow slept with Désirée and the children (twins) seemed to like him according to Désirée. But she said that she doesn't want to marry again and she wanted to stay a free woman. One month remaining before the end of the exchange. He wrote to Hilary to inform her that he is getting laid with a woman (Désirée) many times a week and he didn't call her "darling" anymore. Swallow's life became a sort of routine with Désirée and the twins. It's like they were married but not. For him, it was a more comfortable life than in England.

Swallow had been put in jail for being accused of stealing bricks (he told the policemen that students took these bricks from a demolished building and he was just helping them by driving the car). He was stuck with prisoners who were going to rape him and luckily, Désirée came just in time in order to give the cash to the policeman so as to free him.

Swallow wrote back to Hilary saying that the main mistake wasn't those stories but the marriage and that she must come in Euphoria in order to have a real opinion about this story.

Hilary managed to call Swallow and told him that he should come home in order to save the marriage and that she was going to have an affair. But the call was public so Swallow immediately asked her to stop talking about this.

Zapp was having a hard time trying to make love with Hilary but she first refused because Mary Makeplace and the children were in the house.

The morning, Zapp escorted Mary Makeplace to emergency (to see Dr. O'Shea) because he was going to have a baby soon.

While Zapp was teaching (on a extract written by Jane Austen), Hilary phoned him and he immediately replied even though he was in class (and she apologized about the previous night).

Zapp almost has been shot to death and when he noticed it, he was afraid.

When he returned in Hilary's home, they made love and after that, Désirée phoned Hilary in order to tell her that the woman whom Swallow was getting laid with was her. Hilary also told her that she was getting laid with Zapp as well. They were really surprised and Hilary wanted to organize a meeting with everyone (Swallow, Désirée, Zapp and Hilary) in order to fix that.

6) Ending (page 237 à 251 : 15 pages)

During their travel to New York, Hilary and Zapp's plane almost collided with Désirée and Swallow's one.

After the greetings, the four went in hotel rooms. Zapp is with Swallow and Désirée is with Hilary. Midnight, they changed place, Zapp slept with Désirée (and made love together) whereas Swallow slept nicely with Hilary. The next morning, Zapp had a dilemma : either they return in their previous life (Zapp with Désirée and Swallow with Hilary), either they get divorced and they remarry again. But he didn't considered the fact that they might get divorced without remarry again. On the TV, there was a presentation of the big march of Plotinus. On the TV screen, Swallow recognized Charles Boon, Melanie, Wily Smith, Carol and Deirdre.

The novel ended up weirdly and we don't know what will happen to the four of them.