

JAMES THURBER

(1894 – 1961)

THE *NEW YORKER*'S ACCIDENTAL CARTOONIST



RUMORS OF WAR KEHINDE WILEY





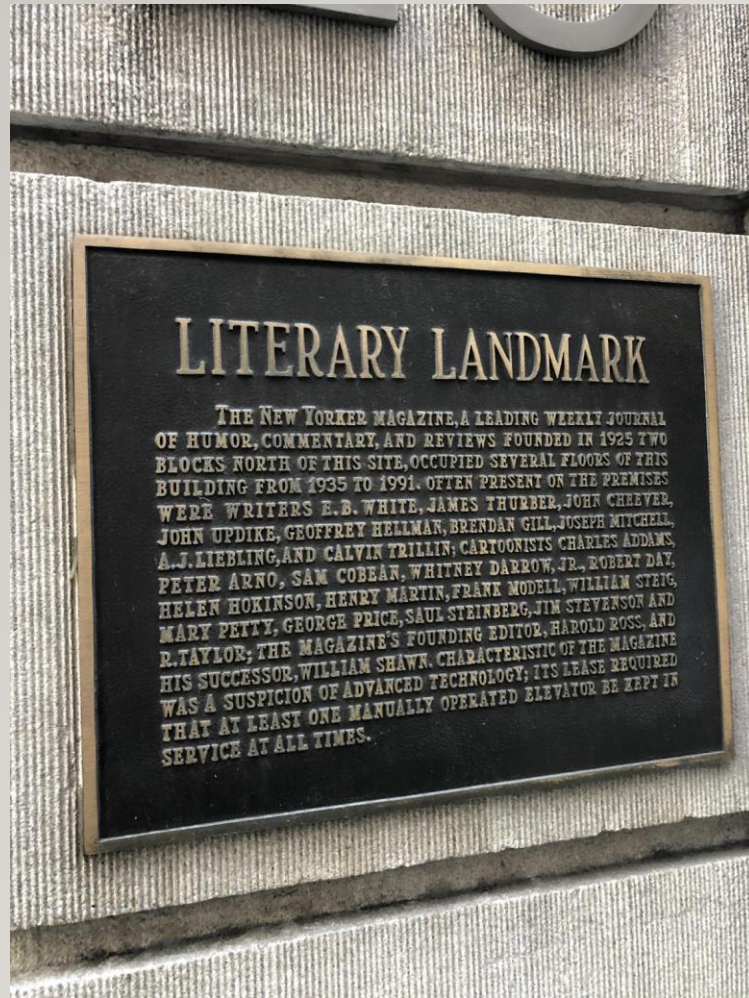
The Algonquin Hotel and
Restaurant
59 W 44th St. New York, NY.

“The Round Table”





“A Vicious Circle” by
Natalie Ascencios



Site of the second New Yorker.
25 West Forty-third Street,
New York, NY.



The New York Public Library
476 5th Ave, New York,
NY.



Reading room at The New York Public Library.



QUANTIFYING THE COMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THURBER.

- Collaboration with E.B. White
- 400 “third rate” cartoons over 25 years. (Harold Ross).
- Described as minimalist and compared to Matisse by Paul Nash.



SAME THING ONLY DIFFERENT...



Henri Matisse



James Thurber

HAROLD ROSS

AND

JAMES THURBER

Capriciousness

AND

Randomness



“If this drawing is not funny, and is not a swell drawing, I shall engage to eat it, and with all of Price’s fantasies that just miss, all of Taylor’s S. Klein women, and all eleven versions of every drawing Day does of two men in a restaurant. I will also eat every drawing of a man and a woman on a raft, every drawing of a man and a native woman on a desert island and every drawing of two thin women...” (Thurber - 1937).



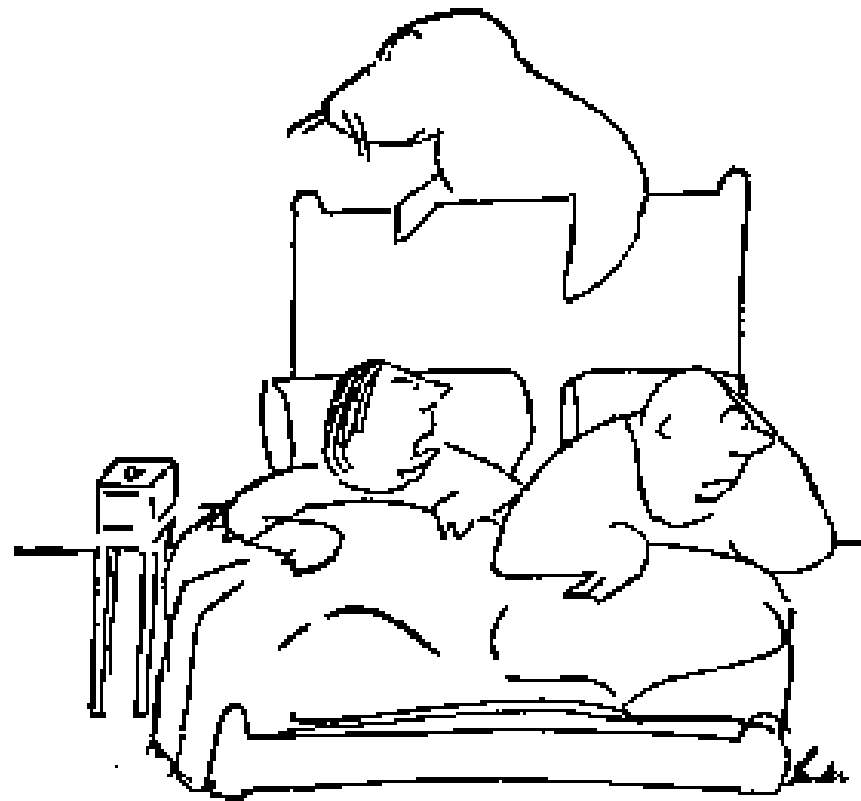
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ALFIE?



James Thurber – self portrait

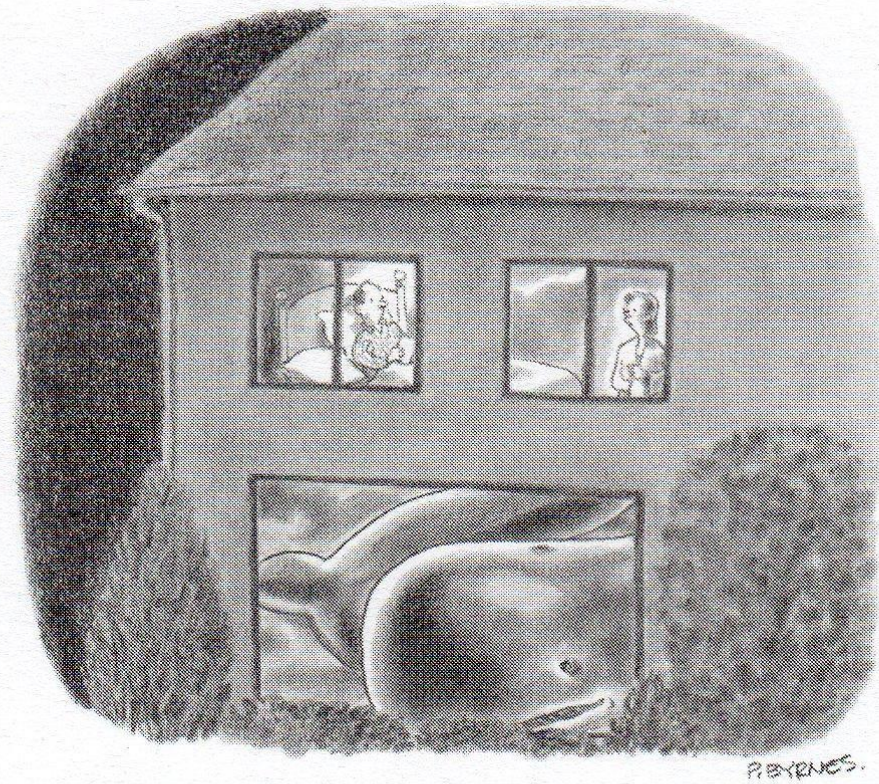
James Thurber used simplistic images to reflect the absurdity of our lives back onto ourselves.





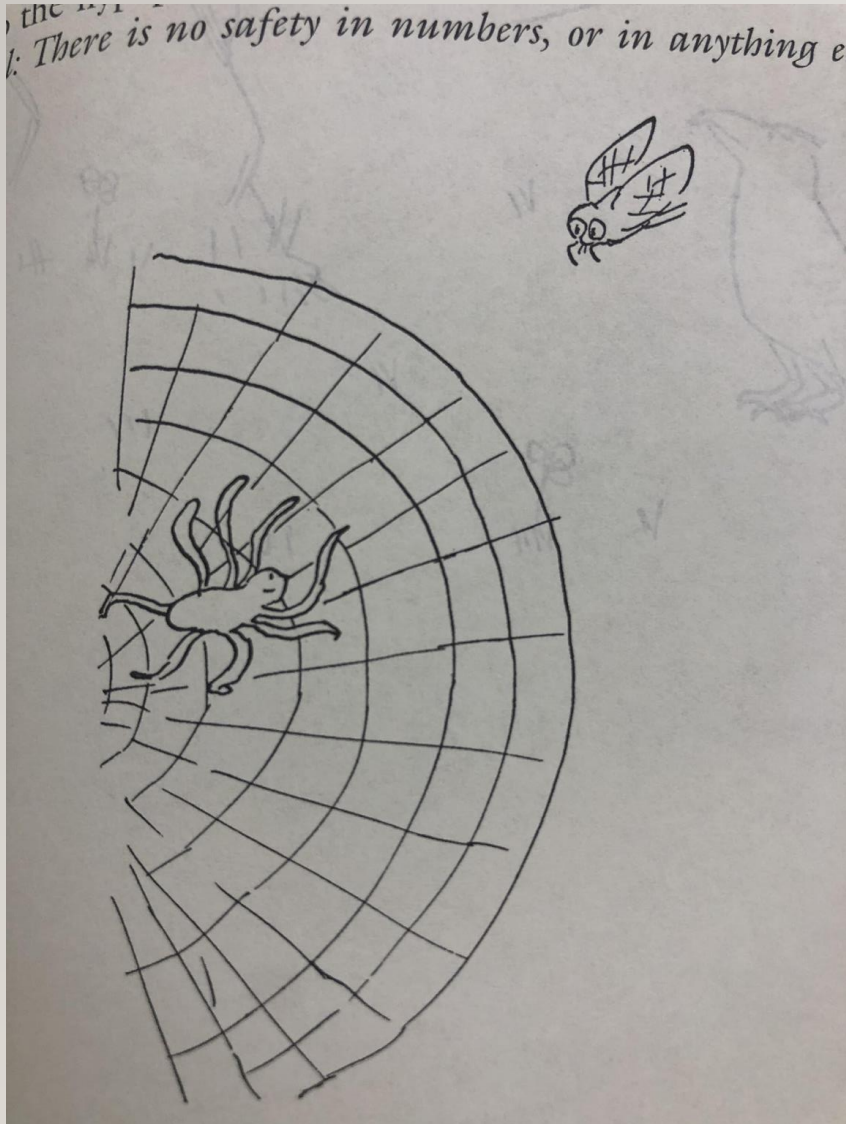
"All Right, Have It Your Way--You Heard A Seal Bark."

"Is Sex Necessary?" (Thurber – White, 1929).



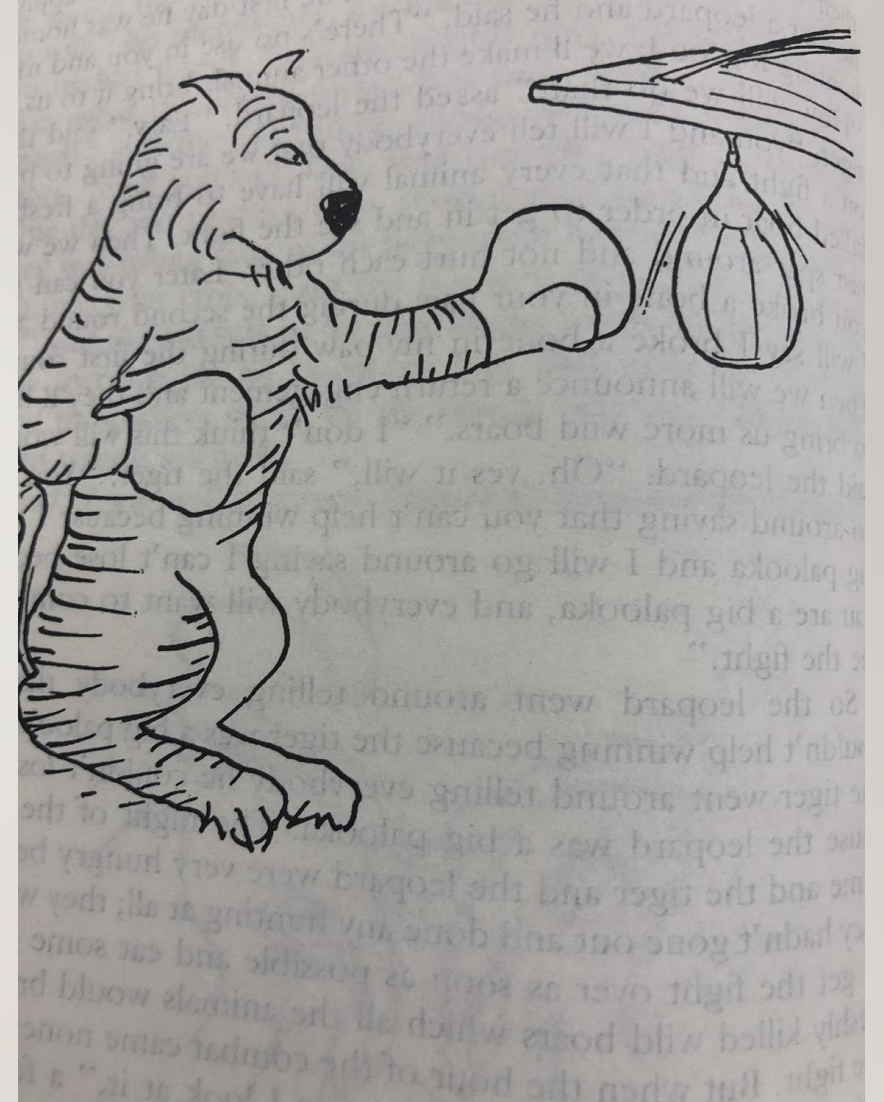
“Either you left the TV on downstairs or we have whales again.”

the 171
1: There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else.



Moral: There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else.

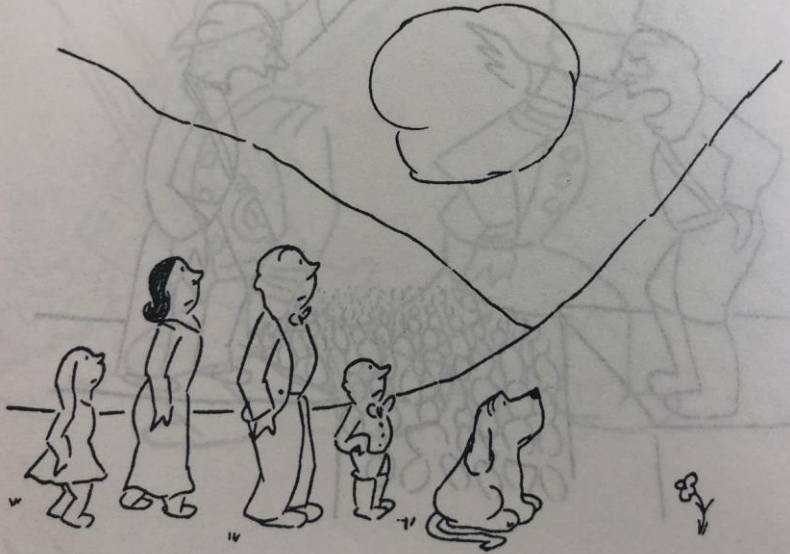
Moral: If you live as humans do, it will be the end of you.



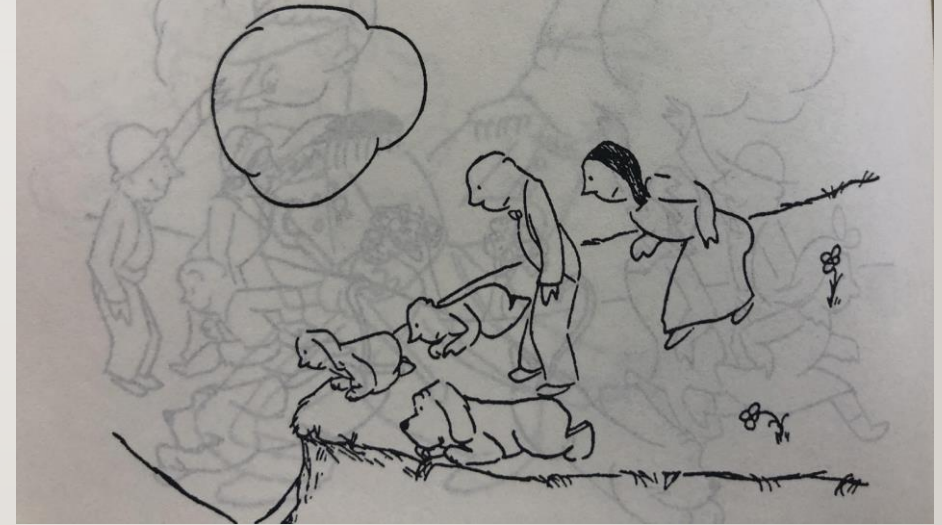


Dogs naming themselves from “Thurber’s Dogs”

BEFORE LONG, THOSE WHO WENT TO LIVE IN THE VALLEYS
WISHED THEY HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE HILLS



SOME PEOPLE WENT ONE PLACE TO LIVE,
AND THOSE WHO HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE HILLS
WISHED THEY HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE VALLEYS



“Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.” Anonymous

Conclusions:

- If you don't get Thurber's cartoon's you are not alone.
- Cartoons don't have to *be* funny to be funny. If we think they are funny, they are.
- “Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit but the highest form of intelligence” (Oscar Wilde).

