



[100C] The Yossarian Mansion and New Spork City

In the last stories we saw a bit more of New Spork City through Carmen's eyes, and we saw the Yossarian¹ Mansion where she lives for the first time.

The house where Carmen lives has it's own Wikipedia entry...

Known in New Spork City simply as the “house on the hill,” the Yossarian Mansion was completed in 1901 for the Yossarian shipping and railroad family. For decades, the Yossarian Mansion was New Spork City's premier address and hosted Presidents and foreign heads of state.

The last remaining member of the Yossarian family, Carla Yossarian Geldsack, lives in Yossarian house but has been forced by financial difficulties to divide the house into apartments. The park surrounding Yossarian Mansion is no longer maintained.

Answer the following questions

These are all opinion questions. There are not 'right' or 'wrong' answers.

1. How is Carmen's apartment different from what you expected?
2. Carmen gets to know² her neighbors at a birthday party. How often do you celebrate birthdays with neighbors?
3. In the story, Carmen's apartment is cheap because she has to walk up a steep hill to get there. Would you walk up a hill like this to save on rent?
4. We met three of Carmen's neighbors in the last story. Which would you like to learn more about?

1 This is a fake name taken from the book *Catch-22*. You don't have to learn the name, but the book is excellent (if you like a special kind of humor).

2 To 'get to know' someone is to learn more about them, so that you know more than just their name.

The New Spork City Central Library...

The Central Building of the New Spork City Library system was built in 1890 to provide space for the collection created when four different library systems combined into the New Spork City library. Combined, the collections then formed the largest public library collection in the world and it was decided that an appropriately impressive central library building

was required.

After a design competition, the Beaux-Arts design from architect James McHausembauen was selected and construction started in 1885. In 1890, the library was opened and contained over 53 million books on over 90 miles of shelves which were located underground.

Now answer these questions

1. Is the library in your town famous? What buildings are famous in your town? How much can you say about them?
2. One of Carmen's first trips was to the public library. Where would you go first in a new town?
3. The people Carmen has met in New Spork City (not including the ones at AnonCorp) are mostly friendly to her. Is this realistic in a large city?
4. Carmen had difficulties because she didn't know a subway line was closed. How could she avoid difficulties like that in the future?
5. In the next stories, Carmen will go back to work. What kinds of situations do you think can happen in a large company like AnonCorp?