

TRANSCRIPT
ONOMATOPOEIA

Walking the Brooklyn Bridge : No Longer A Tourist

SARAH THOMAS OXTOBY: There's an American flag at the very peak of the bridge. On this day - Veteran's Day - it whips in the wind. The bridge itself is MASSIVE. Made of wood, metal beams and wire cables overhead, - it is clear this bridge was built to last.

ST: I'm from Los Angeles, - a place where you drive to get anywhere - not a place you really walk.

In California we drive over bridges. But today, I'm going to walk from Manhattan to Brooklyn and back, by foot.

ST: I'm Sarah Thomas Oxtoby, and this is Onomatopoeia- a podcast about the people and places of New York City. In this episode, no longer a tourist in New York -

ST: I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I've been to New York as a tourist - and explored most of the tourist spots. Central Park, Times Square, and Broadway.

But a few months ago - I moved to the Big Apple for grad school. Suddenly - New York felt a whole lot bigger. Even learning about the five boroughs - Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, and Staten Island - it all felt so, overwhelming.

So when I decided I was going to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge - well - it was definitely out of my comfort zone. I just (kind of) got used to navigating the subway system, now I'm walking bridges? In this way, this west coast gal is starting to feel a bit more like an east coaster, day by day.

[TAPE] [Sounds of cars driving the Brooklyn Bridge](#)

ST: It's a fall afternoon. I didn't need a jacket after all. The wind feels warmer than expected. The bridge itself exudes strength, unwavering in the wind. Construction began in 1869. It took, 14 years to build.

[TAPE] [Ambient sounds, people walking the bridge and talking in background, audible laugh](#)

ST: The bridge connects the lower east side of Manhattan to the popular Brooklyn area known as Dumbo. If you've seen the TV show Gossip Girl, you've seen this bridge many times.

[TAPE] [Clip from Gossip Girl intro](#)

Dumbo is where the character Dan Humprey lives.

ST: On the bridge, you can't miss the many people taking selfies.

[TAPE] [Clicking of camera, taking photos](#)

Some shoot video.

Others structure mini photoshoots, with the bridge as their backdrop. Everyone is looking to capture the moment in their own way.

As I approach Brooklyn, I see a bright red WELCOME sign. It's perched on top of what looks like a bank building. The old school ones with the light up clocks on them. They tell you the time and the temp. This one has too many bulbs out, so I can't see either. Still, there's a welcome feeling when approaching the Brooklyn boundary. Even the birds seem to be welcoming. They sit on a metal beam of the bridge, serenading me as I reach Brooklyn.

[TAPE] [Birds in Brooklyn chirping.](#)

ST: I turn back to look at how far I've come. The sun is setting on Manhattan, the skyline dressed in red, white, and blue lights for Veteran's Day.

I see the Empire State Building, the glow of its lights reflecting off mirrored buildings nearby. Lady Liberty, is off in the distance, her golden torch welcoming me to return. That's right. I made it to Brooklyn by foot, but now it's time to walk back.

[TAPE] [Birds in Brooklyn chirping Fade out.](#)

ST: This episode of Onomatopoeia- was created by me, Sarah Thomas Oxtoby. Onomatopoeia is a production of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Joanne Faryon is our executive producer and professor. Original theme music by Lee Feldman. Our graphic was made by Sunni Bean. Special thanks to Columbia Digital Librarian Michelle Wilson.