

How New York City Was Invented

By: Natalie Leonesio

For Milo

Europeans.

Seeking new land and shooing and murdering Native Americans without a single consideration of humanity.

The Europeans reproduced and invited others over. The population grew and multiplied.

Bustling.

It became seen as the greatest city in the world.

A place of progress.

A place of revolution.

Artistic. Brutal. Vibrant.

Every person —almost— who wants to become someone goes there.

There's a haze, condensation over glass that depicts the worldview of New York City.

I am often fooled by the haze, for that's where I want to go to become someone.

The haze leaves the impression that aspirations and New York City go hand in hand.

We forget that everyone who wants to become someone goes there because of the haze.

It's a city of rejection.

I refuse to see through the haze.