

New York, 1940

His back to us, a man boards a city bus. It's a sunny day and the bus casts a sharp shadow on the tarmac. The image is black and white, and almost square at 16.8 by 20.1 cm. The bus is flat-fronted with a rounded roof, the lower half of the body painted a darker shade than the upper part. Two round headlamps and a rather flimsy-looking chrome bumper are mounted on the front, while a rectangular panel above the front window shows the destination. There's an aerodynamic touch to the small side lamps mounted on the roof which taper to a point at one end. The number 434 is painted on the side and front of the bus, with the slogan 'Go the Motor Coach Way' in cursive lettering under the front window. Small block capital letters spelling out the word ENTRANCE run vertically on either side of the doorway. In the side window, there is a panel showing the route number 3 and the legend 131st ST & LEX AV - short for Lexington Avenue.

To the far right of the photo, on the kerb, there is a sign on a post about a metre high, with the words BUS STOP in black capitals on a white disc. A black arrow shoots up through the disc, with the words POLICE DEPT in small capitals on the point and NO PARKING on the feather, below the disc. On the opposite side of the street, a flight of steps runs up to a door in a stone building. The windows and walls of other buildings along the street are reflected in the bus's front window.

The man boarding the bus is elderly with white hair and a stooped back. He wears a thin black suit. His arms hang straight down at his sides, the palms facing towards

the back, even though he is stepping up – giving a sense of him having a distinctive gait. A silhouette of a passenger can be glimpsed inside, but there is no one else around. The sunlight hits the top of the man's head and shoulders as his left foot lifts to the first of two steps into the bus's dark interior.

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