

**A little Burst** (wr = you might write something)

5 The story lends itself as a stimulus to writing, not only this week. However, this week you might like to write 'Dear Olive,...' as a reaction, but you might also remember how you reacted to a new daughter-in-law or the new partner of a close friend. You might remember the story about how two people met, who later became partners, or have other wedding party stories.

10 - of course we need to discuss the title. But probably not first thing

Have you ever taken a rest on someone else's bed without asking permission? (wr)  
Ever 'stolen' food at a party? (wr)

15 Do you prefer celebrating weddings in private rooms or in a hired venue? Have you ever been to a wedding where the marriage vows were also made at home - outside on the lawn for example?

20 Do you know many couples where the femal spouse is better qualified than the male?

Fun stories of how couples first met.

25 Olive's size : it is something that 'still seems something to get used to'. Perhaps you are used to your size, but what about other aspects? Age? Qualification? (That might mean being an aunt, a grandmother, a qualified social worker, a trusted volunteer.)

30 Olive 'minds' being big. The image of a seal is in her own mind. What do we 'mind' about being? (Last week someone shouted at me: 'Oma, Du stehst auf dem Fahrradweg'. I didn't appreciate that one bit. (Later Olive minds S's comments re dress.)

p. 76

35 Olive thinks about different perfumes. Have you ever asked somebody to use less perfume? I don't know which is worse - being cared for by somebody without German or English or by somebody who stinks of smoke.

40 How many things do we feel 'different' about because we have made them - or even just lived in or used them?

'the three of them' eg p. 76 bottom - family feeling.....

p. 77 Do you know any creative nicknames?

45 Attitudes to people who have money, who 'come from money' (77) cf p. 81

What did I rhyme 'prejudice' with? It's the same rhythm as 'happiness' 'audience'.

References to her dress: p. 75 not wrinkling it, p. 77 'did come out nicely'

50 'decent' - 75,

Last but very much not least : what is the story about?

55 'A little Burst' is about a woman's difficulty in accepting that her son has chosen a life-companion. This is ... by the fact that she feels her own life is precarious, that she has, in some ways, not succeeded. This expresses itself in her being overweight and her sharp humour which contrasts with her husband's apparent geniality. 54 Add feelings?