

# **streetwise, looking for Molly Dee**

**By Jerold London**

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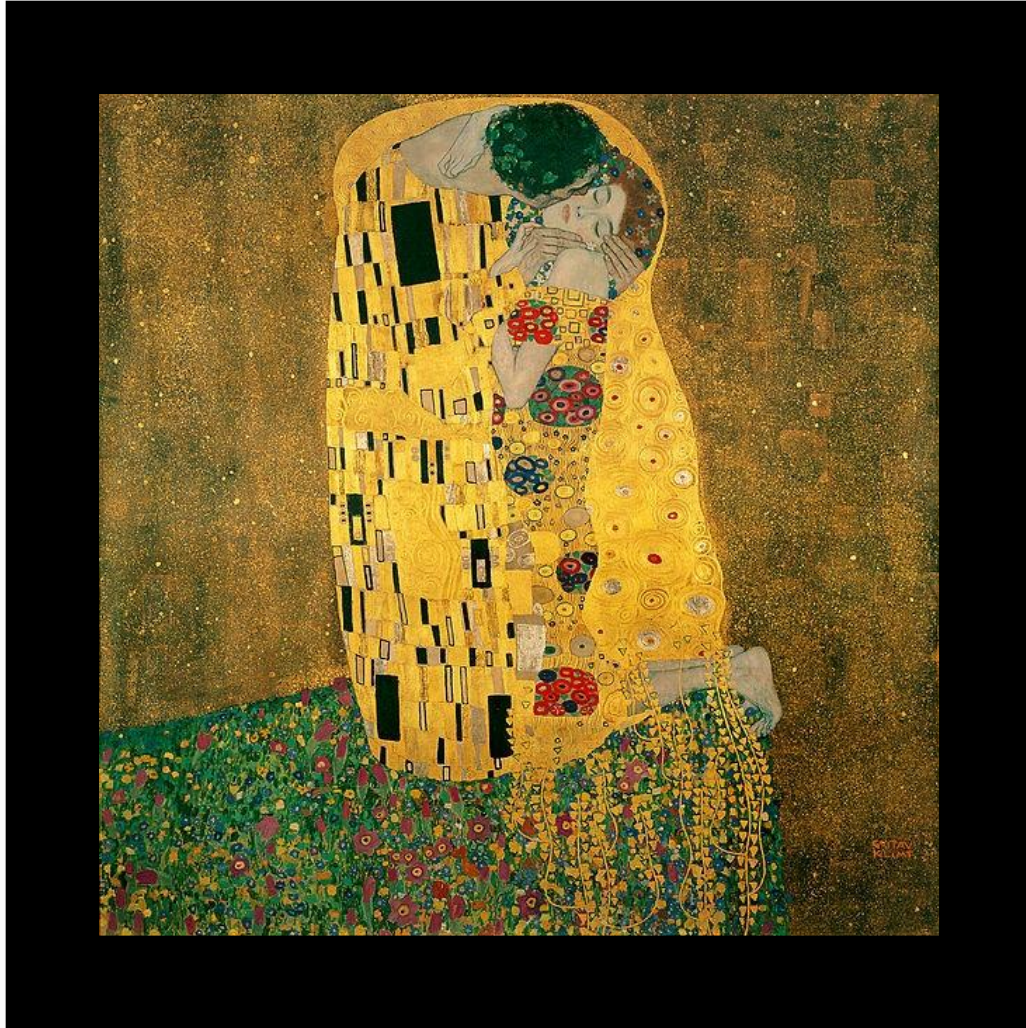


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We are not mad. We are human. We want to love, and someone must forgive us for the paths we take to love, for the paths are many and dark, and we are ardent and cruel in our journey.

– Leonard Cohen

### **streetwise, looking for Molly Dee**

**The following summer (in the 2020's). Morning. JOE YA-KNOW, RATLER (with his dog) and JAKE are standing outside Molly Dee's micro house, next to a woods on the grounds of a convent.**

**Pause.**

**JAKE**

I told ya. She's gone.

**RATTLER**

They're both gone.

**JAKE**

And she loved that house more than anything.

**JOE**

She was a blessing in his life, and look what he did.

**RATTLER**

At least he didn't burn it down.

I heard him say once he wished he could....

Him in it.

**JOE**

I go away for three days, and *this* happens.

**JAKE**

Nothing you could do, Joe.

**JOE**

Well something I can do now.... Go after them.

**RATTLER**

They won't come back.

Some dudes in town were askin' about him.

Goin' up to people on the street, with a picture,

Askin' if anybody recognized Griff.

Nobody did.

**JAKE**

Of course nobody did, Rattler. Nobody would.

**RATTLER**

'Course not.

**JOE**

Did you ever hear what he did? That he was runnin' from?

**RATTLER**

Nope.

**JAKE**

Me neither.

**JOE**

You win strange friendships streetwise  
In the weakness of your pride.

**RATTLER**

I've found a few open hearts, but none with open ears like hers.

**JAKE**

Me neither.

**JOE**

Any idea where they went?

**JAKE**

Maybe New York. I heard her talk a lot about it.

**JOE**

We'd never find her in New York.

**JAKE**

That's probably the idea.

**RATTLER**

Too many machines in New York  
That can read your face walkin' down the street.  
They're not there. I guarantee ya.

**JOE**

What the Hell's the meaning of life, anyway?  
Machines that can track you down the streets?

**RATTLER**

The meaning of life is its meaninglessness.  
That we're all left with.  
Except Pooch here.

**JOE**

I don't buy it. There's got to be more.  
Or else people like us would never have a Dee in their lives.

**RATTLER**

So what is the meaning you think, Joe?

**JOE**

To stay alive, I guess. Stayin' alive.  
And makin' a difference in good people's lives.  
Like Dee. And fuck the rest of them.

**JAKE**

And then what?

**JOE**

I know what you're sayin'.  
I know everything you're sayin'.  
We all love Dee. She's so special.  
And this hurts too much to talk about.

**RATTLER**

It always ends this way.  
No matter who you care for  
In the end, they're gone. Or you are.

**JOE**

In the end there's always sorrow you mean.  
I know that.  
Everybody knows that.  
That's not why you care.  
You care because ....

**RATTLER**

[*beat*] Because you can't stop yourself.  
And stay human.

**JOE**

You care because the sorrow is the beginning of something.

**JAKE**

Like what?

**JOE**

Like maybe peace.... Or wisdom.

**JAKE**

You're full of shit.  
There's no wisdom in losin' things.  
Except to guard them better the next time.  
I never liked that guy, Griff. Not even his name.

**JOE**

I'm not talkin' anymore. I'm goin'.

**RATTLER**

Where?

**JOE**

Where Dee is...  
[beat] You comin'?

**RATTLER**

Sorry, Man. But I'm not up to chasin' ghosts today.

**JAKE**

Me neither.

**JOE**

I'll call ya.  
When I find her.

**JOE exits.**

**MOLLY DEE and GRIFF enter, walking  
down a homeless street of yet another  
homeless city in early autumn.**

**MOLLY DEE**

So many of us. Homeless.

**GRIFF**

Face it: No one's changing the face of homelessness in this country.  
Regardless how hard they try.

**MOLLY DEE**

We can try.

**GRIFF**

I can tell you anyhow, I'd rather be homeless like this  
Than in prison as a sex offender.

**MOLLY DEE**

But you're not.  
You're not a sex offender.

**GRIFF**

Try telling that to some of the felons in there.

**MOLLY DEE**

It's so awfully unfair.

**GRIFF**

You'll get your skull cracked open.

No thanks, Dee.

I've been there before.

**MOLLY DEE**

Where?

With a skull fracture?

**GRIFF**

You better believe it.

**MOLLY DEE**

You never told me that, Griff.

**GRIFF**

When I was a kid.

**MOLLY DEE**

How?

**GRIFF**

In the woods.

My mom slipped, and dropped me by accident, and my head hit a rock.

**MOLLY DEE**

O my God!

Wasn't that what happened, you said, to your sister?

**GRIFF**

No.

They were just walking, and my sister tripped.

Mom was *carrying* me.

**MOLLY DEE**

It smells the same. To me.

**GRIFF**

[*with some anger*] What are you saying?



**MOLLY DEE**

Nothing. Not a thing. Sorry.

**GRIFF**

[*beat*] Like I said: You're not changing the face of homelessness in this country.  
Regardless.

**MOLLY DEE**

Then just one face.... Your face.

**GRIFF**

Keep my face out of it.  
I've told you, Dee.  
And don't forget.

**MOLLY DEE**

Absolutely.

**GRIFF**

Homeless rhymes with hungry.  
Penitentiary rhymes with pitiless.  
Pitiless is worse.

**MOLLY DEE**

Something's gone wrong with America. Heart and soul.

**GRIFF**

Freedom.

**MOLLY DEE**

Justice.

**GRIFF**

Freedom *and* justice. Without motive.

**MOLLY DEE**

There's no freedom or justice without motive.

**GRIFF**

And there's no creativity without it either. In life, *or* death.

**MOLLY DEE**

In death?

**GRIFF**

Death is the end goal of life. Death is the god of life. To die with creativity.

**MOLLY DEE**

We have so much to live for. Not death. Don't say that, Griff. *Please.*

**GRIFF**

People just aren't friendly.

**MOLLY DEE**

There are so many negatives.  
Just look at the positives.  
There are at least as many of them.

**GRIFF**

Name one.

**MOLLY DEE**

The sun, when it's warm.  
The moon, when it's not alone.  
The air. Birds in it. Songs in it....  
Hedgehogs!  
Marmite.  
Showers. Alone.  
Showers. With you in it.  
Woods. And gardens. And my secret paths through them....  
What about you?

**GRIFF**

My sister....  
And you, maybe.

**MOLLY DEE**

Okay.

**Uneasy pause.**

**GRIFF**

Let me tell you:  
If Leonard Cohen can die  
So everything that stands up for justice and truth can die.

**MOLLY DEE**

And be reborn.

**GRIFF**

[*beat*] I can't talk about her anymore. Not now.

**MOLLY DEE** takes a piece of paper out of a pocket, tears it into several smaller pieces, and puts them on her tongue. Then, making a face, she moves her tongue, back and forth, in and out of her mouth a few times, wiggling the pieces of paper on it.

**MOLLY DEE**

What am I, Griff?

**GRIFF**

A homeless lizard.

**MOLLY DEE**

A homeless lizard, fighting with temptation  
That I don't want to win.  
A girl like me don't want to see  
Temptation caving in.

**GRIFF**

You're a goof.

**They are just about to walk offstage.**

**MOLLY DEE**

We have responsibility, Griff, you and me.

**GRIFF**

To whom?  
And why?

**MOLLY DEE**

To understand that we're not the only ones.  
To understand the suffering of others, too.

**They exit.**

**From one side of the stage, offstage:**

**JOE**

[*singing loud*] Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

**From the other side of the stage,  
offstage:**

**MOLLY DEE**

[*singing*] Well baby I've been here before  
I've seen this room and I've walked this floor  
I used to live alone before I knew ya  
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch  
And love is not a victory march  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah\*

**Bells ring the hour.**

**END**

\*Hallelujah, click [here](#)