

streetwise, looking for Molly Dee

By Jerold London

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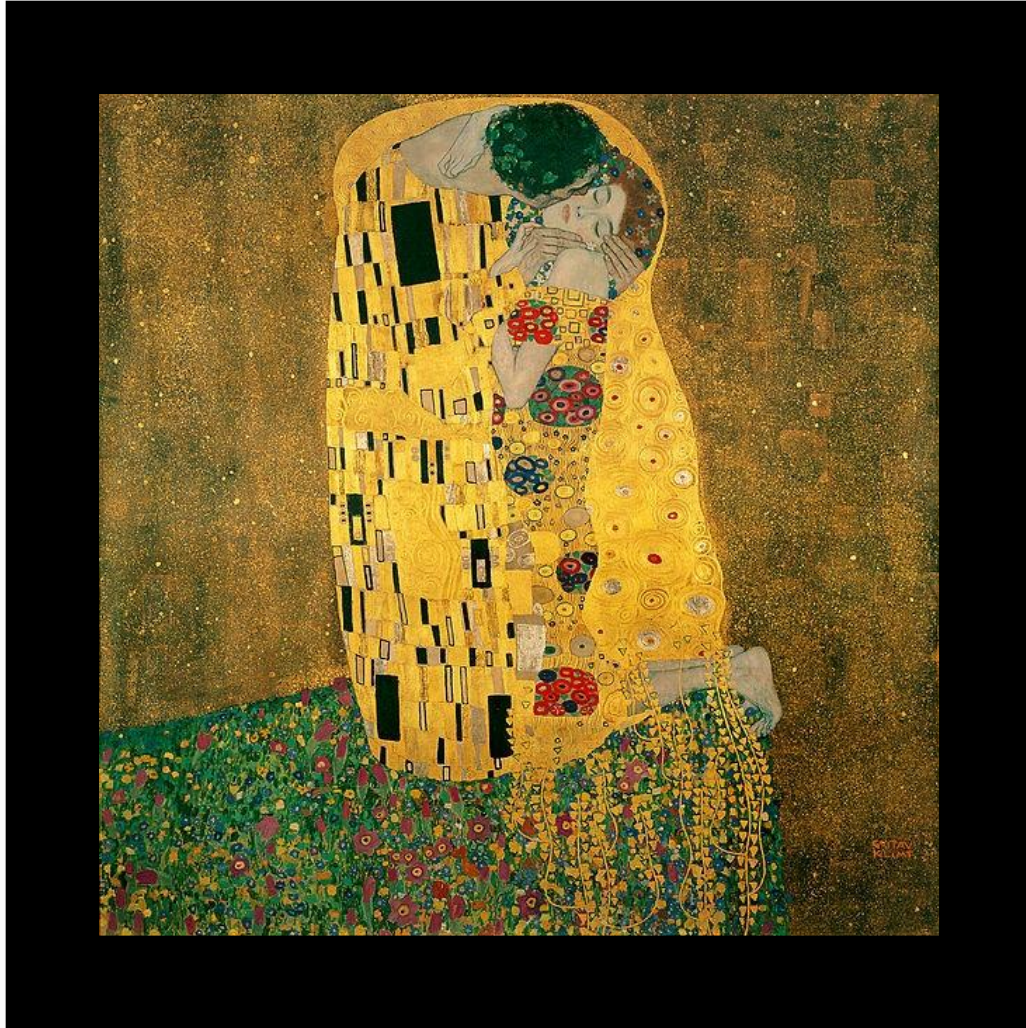


Photo from [Wikimedia](#)

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](#)