

## Portrait

by drake via suzie - Jungle Drum Newswire *Wednesday, Nov 22 2017, 9:30am*

international / poetry / post

another mauve morning,  
saturday, flea market day at the  
old church, why not, perusing  
bric-a-brac may reduce the length  
of reduced mental focus and lingering hangover

bumping and manoeuvring didn't help -- a stall  
of old wares, junk mostly, revealed a frame turned  
backward hiding a painting or photograph

on request the vendor turned the frame about  
revealing the haunting face of a very young woman  
slightly in profile tho with eyes focused, it seemed,  
on the viewer, an illusion most portraits are known for,  
nevertheless, these eyes seemed to fixate the vision  
drawing the viewer into the picture --  
if not for the eyes, the portrait would have been of a  
post pubescent girl but the eyes were too heavy with experience,  
intent, probing and knowing

how much?  
ten dollars  
sold

returning to the loft i hung it where once a picture  
adorned the wall leaving a tell-tale rectangular cleanliness;  
oddly the portrait frame fitted perfectly  
and so harmony was restored to the wall

days passed into weeks the girl forever watching  
every movement, every event that transpired in the loft  
in which i spent most of my creative, debauched  
and restful hours yet my invited liaisons were disturbed  
by the portrait as the position of the bed forced a direct view;  
indeed, it was/is the eyes, which did not disturb me in the least

years passed and many more short liaisons, the portrait was a  
saviour  
as no prospective partner lingered long enough to weave  
their particular spell, i often marvelled over this occurrence  
and smiled at the portrait unaware it responded ever so subtly

years turned into decades during which time  
many literary pieces were produced and published, it was a living

now approaching middle age i took the trouble to inspect the  
portrait  
closely; the eyes seemed painted by another artist so compelling  
they were,  
the colour of the eyes from a distance did not reflect the slate-blue-  
green tinges  
which contrasted with a pale complexion  
i drew back a little then forward again fascinated by the change  
in the intensity of the gaze until like a lightning bolt to the brain  
i recalled/recognised the young woman in the portrait  
and a promise i failed to keep but not from this life

i returned to my desk, emptied the glass of green ginger wine  
and began to type

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-3009.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-789.html>