

## Stranger

by lex via jaxie - Jungle Drum Newswire *Thursday, Mar 8 2018, 1:12am*

international / poetry / post

her sorrow a giant mountain pressing  
on her chest pushing the very life from her  
frail exquisite body -- her magnetic eyes  
deep as the blackness of deepest space  
could not hide the loss she suffered,  
it seemed as though the entire tragedy  
of all humanity was carried by this petite stranger  
that asked for no help only directions  
in a metropolis unfamiliar

menacing dark alleys intermittently illuminated  
by archaic single globe light poles  
were safe for locals  
moving in the shadows doing business  
and waiting for opportunities but hazards for strangers  
and the unwary unfamiliar with the neighbourhood

yet she took to the lanes without the slightest apprehension  
seeking the address which i explained was one lane among many

i trailed her safely behind in order to prevent an attack  
though she was aware of my presence,  
the denizens in the alleys assessed the stranger each to their own  
intentions  
none of which were good  
though as they approached and met her gaze  
they retreated somewhat daunted

this one had accrued much power in her pain,  
no-one dared harass her

she turned and gestured that i approach  
i'm alright, she said, i know u are watching over me  
do not be concerned i can take care of myself

yes i see that but i would never forgive myself  
if any harm came to u,  
do not concern urself, she responded  
i have no interest in my welfare so why should u?  
perhaps that is why i am watching over u, i replied  
though ur disregard for ur safety seems to ward off evil,  
people sense something though unsure of what they sense so

leave u alone, perhaps i could assist, what or who is it u seek?

'drake,' she responded  
my god, she seeks me yet i have no idea who she is  
so i politely ask why she seeks drake/me unawares  
well it's a little involved but to simplify  
i was referred to him as someone who could  
help with an issue

indeed, drake is a fixer and well respected, i replied,  
but not of worldly affairs  
well, that is why i seek him the matter is not mundane,  
i do not know who gave u that address but it's not where drake  
lives,  
i informed her  
do u know where i could find him? indeed i do, i am going past  
his place, i would be happy to take you there  
thank you, i hope it is not out of ur way, not at all, i replied with a  
smile

i decided to take the long route and learn more about this  
mysterious stranger

she didn't respond to all my questions only those she thought  
appropriate  
but the more we exchanged words the more fascinated i became  
though acutely aware of her deep sorrow

i notice u carry a burden, i said. she turned her face and locked her  
eyes onto mine  
we all carry burdens some more than others though none are given  
burdens they cannot  
deal with, each according to their capacity, i nodded in agreement,  
which seemed to comfort her

as we approached my house i was inclined to divulge who i was but  
she interrupted the intent  
and asked, 'are you good friends,' well yes, very close indeed  
how close, she asked, well close is not the word i am drake i  
confessed, as i withdrew the key  
and opened the door

i see, she said, i knew there was something ... she did not finish the  
sentence  
come in, i said, tea or something stronger, tea is fine

we sat at the kitchen table while the water boiled to the hiss of a  
gas flame  
i poured and covered the pot to allow the tea to draw

do u wish to explain why you seek me

it's a lost love that haunts me, how do u mean?  
well he recently died in a motor cycle accident  
interesting i said, come to the window,  
she peered at my black Ducati in the yard  
and her face became pale  
is that his bike, she asked? it's an exact  
match, no way, i have customised this machine with loving care

i see she said, then why do you haunt me?

the room began to spin her face began to blur  
but her eyes remained in focus

what do u mean?

you are dead my darling  
how forlorn i have been but u must leave me and attend to your  
matters in this world, what world? this is the world, well yes for you  
but not for me  
i have travelled here in a dream to speak to u one last time in this  
life

it hit me like a truck though it was a truck that killed me, i  
remembered instantly  
i could see the tears in her eyes which welled and began to flow  
down her cheeks

u know how much i love u, but u must let go for ur sake and mine  
we will meet again u know it, but for now let it be i have to finish  
my cycle as allotted

i had regained some composure though i was not entirely sure  
where i was  
go to your bike she said it will take u where u need to go

mount it and hit the ignition everything will be fine

with that she kissed me goodbye and faded from view

my Ducati roared and transported me at light speed to my  
destination  
alone, for now

i need not continue, you will all learn soon enough

Adieu

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-822.html>