



photo by Terry Malanchuk

POETRY

she was very happy
 her smile at first uncertain returned to power
 her hand and his hand were inseparable
 people no longer invited her to complete pairs at dinners
 people no longer invited him to complete pairs at dinners
 when people invited them as a pair to dinners they refused
 they walked in the rain and kissed with wet faces
 they waded naked in hidden northern lakes
 they lived for weeks in long-lost woodlands
 cooking over smoky fires and making love whenever it occurred to them
 that was often
 even when they were not together she felt his caresses
 so fine were her senses
 even when they were not together he felt her caresses
 so fine were his senses

after a while people forgot about them
 they'd been gone so long
 whatever happened to Mary Ananias? they'd ask each other
 last I heard of her she'd met this man...
 autumn began to come

when the fire wasn't warm enough
 and her lover's arms couldn't keep away the cold
 they returned to the city
 for a while their friends couldn't bear to look at them
 they were so beautiful
 but gradually they got used to things
 and soon they were again the same as the other couples
 walking down the grass strip until it widened into a part
 the house they lived in was painted yellow because of the sun
 was painted green because of the trees
 was painted silver because of the moonlight
 was painted blue because of the sky
 was painted deep because of the lakes

Mary stayed at home most of the day
 her man found a job
 soon she got to know some of the neighbours
 they asked her if she was married and where her parents lived
 how her husband was progressing at work
 whether they planned children and what she thought of welfare
 why didn't she get some nice cotton house dresses
 instead of those things they must be very impractical
 although pretty of course not that I'd wear them myself
 at work the other men laughed and told her man stories
 of all the women they'd had and all the beer they'd drunk
 come on out for a beer after work chum and we'll show you a real woman
 call up the little wife and tell her you'll be home late
 at home Mary Ananias smiled without words and shook her head
 at work her man smiled gently without words and shook his head
 aw come on said the woman you're not a bad sort
 even though your hair is too long
 at home and at work the two shook their heads calmly, silently
 what's the matter you think we're not good enough for you?
 the women lashed out in their guilt of refusal
 what's the matter not man enough to take it?
 the men lashed out in their guilt of refusal
 at home inside the yellow green silver blue deep house
 Mary Ananias lost her smile and wept
 at work in the cold metal concrete buildings
 her man in his tears felt her tears, came home to her
 they held each other tightly and their bodies hair tears mingled

soon the neighbours invoked city ordinances upon them
 has the house got a basement? city ordinance number...states
 is their brilliant house a disgrace to the neighbourhood?
 is making love in broad daylight legal?
 is mutual masturbation a perversion?
 is sleeping together in a room with uncurtained windows allowed?
 soon uniformed officers were knocking at their door
 and receiving no answer were slipping the subpoenas into the mail chute
 city commissioners were examining the house
 and through the windows their sexual practices
 and making reports to city council
 enraged neighbours were demanding action in no uncertain terms
 the case was in all the papers

The Later Life of Mary Ananias the Well-Smiled Girl

After she met the waiting man whom she was waiting for
 she lived a week or several years with him
 and in all that time
 found smiling still as they came together
 found laughing with him in the wind
 found embracing in all the hidden places of the street
 found embracing in all the public places of the street
 (their love was no secret)
 found with children in the playgrounds
 found with adults in the auditoria
 found with silence in the mountains
 found with noise in the city
 found with trees in the country
 found with grasses in the parks
 found with moonlight on the lakes and rivers
 found singing impossible duets from forgotten operas
 found loving

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