

DESOLATE STREETS

JOHN CROSS HAS AWOKEN FROM A SOUND SLEEP AND NOW LIES APPREHENSIVE BENEATH THE COVERS. OUTSIDE THE GATHERING LIGHT IS SLOWLY REVEALING THE FAMILIAR DISARRAY OF HIS ROOM. HE LOOKS AT HIS ROOM AND ASKS HIMSELF "WHAT HAS HAPPENED?"

Desolate streets with
Rustling gutter leaves
Whispering loud their secrets.
No doors slam.
No footsteps fall.
The autumn winds
Howl full voice
And fear no interruption.

John Cross has awoken from a sound sleep and now lies apprehensive beneath the covers. His electric alarm clock purrs, content in its knowledge that the time is 6:55 am. Save for that sound all is quiet. Outside the gathering light is slowly revealing the familiar disarray of his room. Clothes sprawl on the floor like beached creatures at low tide while the bedside table is burdened with the flotsam and jetsam of too many late night magazines. Cross looks at his room and asks himself, "What has happened?"

She arrived into his life, like most good things, unheralded. It began with the touch of her hand on his wrist.

"Hello," she said.
"Hello," he replied.
"My name is Amelia." She had keen-edged hair set in ebony black planes about her taunt features. Her clothes were angular and florescent with colour, all the lines straight and sharp. Fashion created with a t-square. A subtle, expensive scent was in the air.
"My name is John, John Cross."
"You're a friend of Susan's, aren't you?"
"Yes, I know Susan."
"She said I should get to know you. Shall we get a drink?"

That was the beginning.

The silence. Silence in an apartment that had never known respite from the incessant growlings and murmurings of the streets below. Cross gets up and stumbles to the window. Eight floors beneath him the streets, the pavements, are empty and desolate. The streetlights sputter and then turn off. To the east the sun, warm and full, is rising but there are no birds to sing a greeting.

Under the blue-white glare of florescent

lighting Cross sat, engrossed in an issue of the New Statesman, reading of the last round of arms reduction talks. Then a steel grey Honda pulled into the station and rolled up to the pumps. Cross diligently noted the car's licence number while a sullen man got out and worked the pump. A moment later he paid his ten dollars, exact change, and drove away. Cross sat in his glass booth and watched the tail lights fade.

Tossing aside his magazine he looked up and saw himself in the large convex mirror that was set above the pumps. He looked at the small twisted figure for a long time. His BA degree in political science sits somewhere in some frame but the gas station pays his rent. He doesn't really mind, he has little ambition. The gas station pays well and makes few demands of him. He doesn't care very much about money.

What he does care about is Amelia. Her razor edged presence cuts precisely through his laziness and indifference. For her he'll work. For her he will become heroic, noble, loving and caring. He has never been happier.

The Government of Canada provides important post secondary education assistance.

Can we help you?

The Government of Canada provides support to post secondary education in a number of important ways. Here are some recent examples showing how the level of this support has been increasing:

Student Assistance

In March, 1983 the Government of Canada added \$60 million to its student assistance programs for loans to full and part-time students and interest relief for borrowers who are disabled or on Unemployment Insurance. For 1982-83, the Government of Canada guaranteed \$300 million in loans to 184,000 students.

Funding for the Post Secondary System

In 1984-85 the Government of Canada's financial support for post secondary education, provided through transfer payments to the Provinces, will total over \$4.2 billion.

This amount, which represents an increase of about \$240 million over 1983-84, equals \$167.60 for every person in Canada.

To learn more about the role of the Government of Canada in post secondary education, complete and mail the coupon.

Get in on it.

Return this coupon to: Publication's Canada, P.O. Box 1986, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G6.

Please send me the publication(s) entitled:

- Full-Time Students
- Part-Time Students
- Interest Relief Plan

Name: (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

8052-CA-1

Canada

Secretary of State of Canada / Le Honorable Serge Joyal

Secrétariat d'État du Canada / L'honorable Serge Joyal

Canada