

***BROKEN HORIZONS AND OTHER POEMS***

**By Louis Kasatkin**

There he sits every day,  
whiskey and cigarettes  
daytime T.V.  
shoe leather's gotten thin,  
needles in the hallway;  
the accoutrements of ennui,  
perhaps.

There they sit every day  
images of unattainable dreams,  
missed opportunities,  
bad choices  
limitations;  
the architecture of bitterness,  
perhaps.

***BROKEN SHADOWS***

If everything was nothing  
and everyone was nobody,  
why then gaze up at the Moon  
when it isn't there?  
If all lies were true  
and truth was never spoken,

why then rebuke those  
who want to fall off the edge of the world?  
If songs were tuneless  
and spoken words noiseless,  
why then listen to the empty air  
wondering why others applaud the silence?  
If chance were certainty  
and hope not an illusion,  
why then feel disappointment  
when in the bright daylight shadows lie broken?

***PARALLEL LINES***

Shall I write a poem today?  
*the tall wire fence is gone,*  
if I did, what would you say?  
*the railway tracks are rusted,*  
*the watchtowers have fallen;*  
what if my inspiration should fail  
and words escape me?  
*the names of their Captains*  
*lie in unmarked graves,*  
*the records of their triumphs have been erased;*  
how then should I complete my task?  
demand History exonerates me

or merely to ask?

***THE THIRD MAN***

a haunting zither's lament permeates

the dank misty alleyway,

from a high up apartment window

a jingle-jangle musicbox

is serenading a peek-a-boo moon;

A streetcar is stuttering

grinding to a halt,

a solitary figure disembarks

silhouetted by lamplight

he quickly merges into a doorway

a shadow within shadows;

he lights up a Gauloise and waits,

his friend Holly Martens is late,

something..someone..has kept him

from this rendez-vous;

After a while

emerging from the doorway

rapid click-clacks carry him

across the cobblestones toward

Vienna's labyrinthine sewers,

where Harry Lime

loses himself

and is lost:

**Bio**

**Louis** is editorial administrator at [www.DestinyPoets.co.uk](http://www.DestinyPoets.co.uk) and founder of Destiny Poets and in his spare time is a civic, community, political activist, blogger and general nuisance to the status quo!