

OWEN MOORE

EPISODE ONE of TEN
PROLOGUE

THERE IS A MODEST LITTLE HOUSE AT 41 HOMEWOOD STREET...



AT LEAST 150 YEARS OLD— BUT UNREMARKABLE ...



EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IT IS HAUNTED.



CURRENT OWNER, BARRY KOZAK.



YES, ON THE SECOND FLOOR.



HE'S A PERFECTLY NICE GHOST.



RESPECTFUL.



NO CHAINS. NO MOANING.



NEVER A WORD.



THAT'S NO SURPRISE.



THOUGH DON'T EXPECT ANYONE IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD TO KNOW THAT.



LIKE MOST AVERAGE FOLKS, THEY CAN'T NAME A SINGLE CANADIAN ARTIST.



I MUST ADMIT, EVEN I'M A BIT FUZZY ON EXACTLY WHO HE WAS.



PERHAPS YOU NOTICED...



IT SEEMS THERE'S A SECOND GHOST DOWNSTAIRS.



NO CHAINS ON THIS ONE, EITHER.



HOW LONG...



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...



OWEN MOORE

EPISODE TWO OF TEN BEGINNINGS

IT WAS DURING THE GREAT SNOWSTORM OF 1900 THAT OWEN MOORE CAME INTO THE WORLD.



SOME FOLKS SAY IT WAS THE SAME NIGHT THE "MUNDAY STONE" FELL.



BUT THAT'S NONSENSE.

THAT METEOR FELL IN MUNDAY'S CORN-FIELD IN 1888.

PEOPLE JUST LIKE SUCH THINGS IN A STORY.



OWEN WAS BORN INTO A MODEST MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY IN CORKTOWN, ONTARIO.



A DECADE BEFORE THAT TOWN WAS SWALLOWED BY THE CITY OF DOMINION.



HE HAD A BOYHOOD LIKE ANY OTHER.



SAVE FOR TWO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES...



A DISTANT, SELF-INVOLVED, UNLOVING MOTHER...



AND A FATHER WHO DIED SUDDENLY WHEN OWEN WAS ONLY NINE.



THIS EVENT KNOCKED THEM DOWN A RUNG ON THE SOCIAL LADDER.



FOR WHICH SHE NEVER FORGAVE ANYONE.

OH.

PAPA.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENT OCCURRED AROUND THIS TIME.



HUSH.

OWEN EXPERIENCED WHAT HE ALWAYS CALLED "A POWERFUL VISION."

BUT WE'LL COME BACK TO THAT LATER.

THE IMPORTANT FACTS HERE...



LAST YEAR'S HAT.

SAD.

ARE THE DROP DOWN FROM COZY MIDDLE-CLASS LIFE...

POSITIVELY THREAD BARE.

AND THAT TROUBLESOME MOTHER.

SHH.

OWEN!

YOU SEE, THE ANGRIER SHE GOT... THE MORE FRUSTRATED...

QUIT YOUR DAWDLING.

NOW!

THE MORE OWEN ADORED HER.

OH YES, SWEET DEAREST MOTHER.

OWEN MOORE EPISODE THREE of TEN PROPER ORDER



OWEN MOORE

EPISODE FOUR of TEN
TICKET TAKER

IN PREVIOUS EPISODES, I REFERRED TO OWEN AS A FAMOUS ARTIST.

I HOPE I HAVEN'T MISLED ANYONE.

HE CERTAINLY NEVER MADE A LIVING AT IT.

THERE WERE VERY FEW FULL-TIME ARTISTS IN DOMINION IN THOSE DAYS.



NO, HE WORKED A REGULAR JOB LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

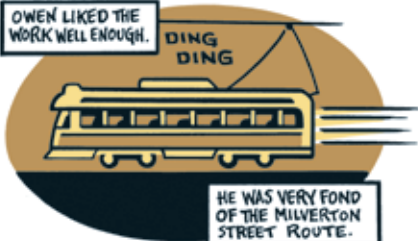
5¢ PLEASE.

A TICKET TAKER ON THE YELLOW STREETCARS OF THE G.D.T.C.*

OWEN LIKED THE WORK WELL ENOUGH.



* GREATER DOMINION TRANSIT COMMISSION



HE WAS VERY FOND OF THE MILVERTON STREET ROUTE.

ESPECIALLY THE OLD BUSINESSES ALONG THERE.

SOME OF THEM GOING BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY.

SMALL GLIMPSSES OF QUIET, OVERLOOKED PLACES.

HE WORKED THAT JOB RIGHT UNTIL RETIREMENT.

GOT THE GOLD WATCH AND ALL.

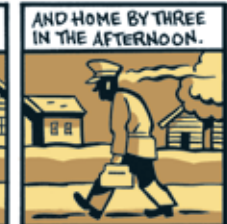


UP WEEKDAYS AT FIVE IN THE MORNING...

AND HOME BY THREE IN THE AFTERNOON.

YES, OWEN WAS A SUNDAY PAINTER.

BUT DON'T MISTAKE HIM FOR AN AMATEUR.



HE WAS A TALENTED AND TRAINED ARTIST.

HE GRADUATED ART SCHOOL AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE DOMINION ARTS AND LETTERS CLUB.

OWEN WAS A REALLY GOOD PAINTER.

THIS WAS THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF HIS STORY.

WELL... ONE OF TWO GREAT TRAGEDIES.



JUST NEVER CELEBRATED IN HIS LIFETIME.



SETH

OWEN MOORE EPISODE FIVE OF TEN A FLOWER

IT IS TIME TO TALK ABOUT OWEN'S MOTHER, VIVIAN MOORE.

A TOUGH CUSTOMER.

TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT HER UPBRINGING AND HER MARRIAGE.

NEVER CONFIDED IN A SOUL. A FRIEND TO NO ONE.

WHY WAS SHE SUCH A HARD, MEAN LADY?

OWEN CERTAINLY OFFERED NO ANSWERS OF ANY KIND.

NOT EVEN IN HIS PRIVATE DIARIES.



HE DIDN'T SEE HER IN THAT LIGHT.

IN FACT,

TO HIM, SHE WAS SOMETHING OF A DELICATE HOthouse FLOWER.



YES, REALLY.

WHAT DO WE MAKE OF SUCH BLINDNESS? WAS OWEN A SAINT? OR A FOOL?

AFTER HER DEATH, TWO PHOTOS WERE FOUND IN A DRAWER.

WHO WAS THIS YOUNG MAN?

HE WASN'T OWEN'S FATHER!

IT'S EASY TO MAKE UP A STORY THAT FITS.



ONE THAT NEARLY EXPLAINS HER.

OR IS THAT JUST WISHFUL THINKING?

A COMFORTABLE LIE OF "HIDDEN LOSS" AND FORGIVABLE TEMPER?

ALL WE KNOW IS THAT OWEN TOOK THE ABUSE SHE SO DEARLY NEEDED TO DISH OUT...

AND HE TOOK IT WITH GRACE.



WHO CAN SAY?



WELL, OWEN?

SHE DIED SUDDENLY OF A WEAK HEART* WHEN OWEN WAS SIXTY-FIVE.

SPEAK UP, BOY.

THEY HAD LIVED TOGETHER, WITH BARELY A VISITOR, SINCE OWEN WAS A CHILD.

DON'T BE SUCH A MOUSE.

NOW, WITHOUT HER CONSTANT COMPLAINTS, IT WAS A CALMER, QUIETER HOME.

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

BUT HERE IS THE STRANGE PART...

OWEN??

IT WAS NOT A HAPPIER ONE.

YES, DEAREST MOTHER.



*NO SNIDE REMARKS, PLEASE.

SETH

OWEN MOORE

EPISODE SIX OF TEN
OVERLOOKED



ITS STREETS AND STOREFRONTS AND FACTORIES.



ITS CORNER STORES, ITS WORKSHOPS.



ITS TAVERNS AND GREASY SPOONS AND LEGION HALLS.



HIS WAS A THOROUGHLY MID-CENTURY URBAN VISION.



I DOUBT HE LEFT THE CITY EVEN ONCE IN HIS LIFE.



OWEN'S SPECIALTY WAS THE QUIET, OVERLOOKED LITTLE CORNERS OF THE CITY.



MOODY WORKS—ALL GREYS AND BLUES AND TWILIGHT COLOURS.



HIS MOST WELL-KNOWN PIECE IS TITLED 'S.A.M.'



A LONELY PARKING LOT: EARLY MORNING.

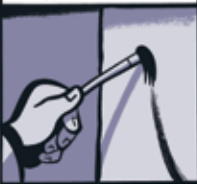
DEAD STILL.

THE SUBJECT MATTER, LIKE OWEN HIMSELF, WAS HUMBLE...

YET IT WAS ALSO WELL ORDERED AND GLOWING WITH AN INNER SENSE OF PERFECTION.



OVER THE DECADES HE STEADILY PRODUCED A GOOD NUMBER OF PAINTINGS...



AND CAREFULLY STACKED THEM IN THE ATTIC.



OH, HE SOLD A FEW... BUT HE REMAINED UNCELEBRATED, OBSCURE.



YOU HAVE TO WONDER WHAT KEPT HIM GOING.



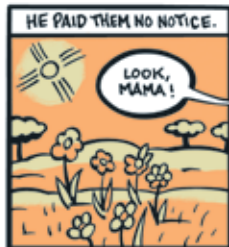
WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO CREATE?



OR, MORE PROPERLY: WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO RECREATE?



OWEN MOORE EPISODE SEVEN of TEN SUCCESS



OWEN MOORE EPISODE EIGHT of TEN SHINING WORLD

MOST FOLKS WERE INTRODUCED TO OWEN'S WORK...

BY A LUSH MONOGRAPH FROM NARWHAL PRESS:

OWEN MOORE
PROPER ORDER
NARWHAL

THE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL BOOK ON HIS LIFE AND WORK TO DATE.

IT'S A GOOD BOOK.

THANK YOU.

WELL RESEARCHED BY DR. JILL BANCROFT.

TEN YEARS.

HE WAS LUCKY TO GET SO SYMPATHETIC A BIOGRAPHER.

I DID MY BEST.

IF THE BOOK HAS A FAILING...

IT IS THAT IT PAINTS OWEN AS AN INNOCENT.

IT'S A NICE IDEA.

IT JUST ISN'T TRUE.

HE WAS A WELL-READ, SOPHISTICATED PERSON.

HIS STUDIO WAS FILLED WITH ART BOOKS, MODERN PRINTS, AND ALL THE LATEST JOURNALS.

HE MIGHT NOT HAVE TRAVELLED...

BUT HE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN ART AND LETTERS AND POLITICS.

THE BOOK'S STRENGTH IS HOW WELL IT BRINGS HIS INNER WORLD TO LIFE.

BANCROFT DEEPLY APPRECIATED OWEN'S QUIET URBAN VISION.

BUT SHE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE MYSTIC UNDERPINNINGS OF HIS MOODY PAINTINGS.

SHE EVEN HINTED AT ONCE HAVING LIFTED THE VEIL HERSELF...

AND FOUND THAT SAME "SHINING WORLD OF ORDER" THAT OWEN MOORE SAW.

A WORLD SHE INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED IN HIS PAINTINGS.

EVOCATIVELY, SHE ENDS HER BOOK WITH THIS QUOTATION FROM HIS DIARY:

"HOW COULD ALL THIS BE JUST TOSSED AWAY?"

"IT COULDN'T."

"OUR THOUGHTS, OUR FEELINGS... ALL WE'VE EXPERIENCED."

"SURELY IT ALL CAN'T SIMPLY EVAPORATE... BLINK OUT AND BE DONE WITH. SUCH WASTE!"

WE ARE LEFT TO ASK OF WHOM WAS OWEN SPEAKING?

HIMSELF?

OR ANOTHER?

SETH

OWEN MOORE EPISODE NINE of TEN HI, THERE



OWEN MOORE

EPISODE TEN of TEN
EPILOGUE



WHERE MOST STORIES END, I GUESS.

OWEN LEFT VERY LITTLE OF HIMSELF BEHIND WHEN HE DIED.

HE DID LEAVE SOME BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS, THOUGH.

THE PLACE TO SEE THOSE PAINTINGS IS THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION AT THE CONFEDERATION PARK ART GALLERY.



OPEN TUESDAY TO SUNDAY, NINE TO FIVE.

HIS PAINTINGS CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN BANKS AND BOARDROOMS ACROSS THE CITY.



THEY ARE A VERY GOOD INVESTMENT.

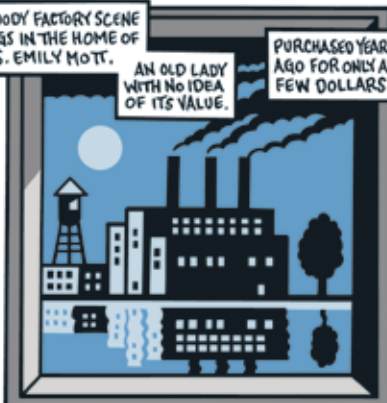
AND A FEW REMAIN TUCKED AWAY IN SURPRISING SPOTS.

IN A DUSTY CORNER OF THE CORKTOWN LIBRARY, FOR EXAMPLE.



A GIFT OF THE ARTIST.

A MOODY FACTORY SCENE HANGS IN THE HOME OF MRS. EMILY MOTT.



PURCHASED YEARS AGO FOR ONLY A FEW DOLLARS.

IN FACT, SEVERAL OF HIS PAINTINGS HANG ON MODEST WALLS.



OR SIT, FORGOTTEN AND UNRECOGNIZED, IN ATTICS.



AS FOR THE MAN HIMSELF?



OWEN DIED FEEBLE-MINDED AND ALONE.

HE DIED WITHOUT A CENT.

TRUTH IS, HIS BANK ACCOUNT HAD A NEGATIVE BALANCE.

I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO IMAGINE THE INEVITABLE PUN ON HIS NAME...

THAT THEY CARVED INTO HIS UNASSUMING GRAVESTONE.



The END