

Subterranean are “hip without being slick, are intelligent without being corny, are intellectual as hell and know all about Pound without being pretentious or talking too much about it, are very quiet, are very Christlike.” It is a term invented by Adam Moorad. The author wanted to get involved with a beautiful, thin, and black girl named Mardou Fox. They first met at a bar named Larry’s. The gang drank together with Mardou; she was eyeing Julien. Then, the author learnt that she wanted to be independent. The party ended in the morning, he tried to follow her, but she cut out fast.

A few days later, Adam met her on the Third Street Bus and hung out with her for a night. He later told the author that though Mardou was beautiful, he did not want to be involved with her for several reasons. So, he invited Mardou to dinner to meet with the author. They had such a fun time talking to each other in a “friendly rivalry”. Adam left earlier. The two went to Red Drum for music and beer. They had a wonderful time. Then, they went back to her home, and had a romantic dance. He spent a night with her and left earlier, citing for work.

He did not see her for a few days, then he received a call from her. They spent another time together; he was brooding about her father and old American railway and Indians while she was talking to him. Then, he thought about Mardou going out without any clothes suddenly. They talked and brooded till Sunday morning. When Adam came home, he saw them still talking, Mardou missed her visit to psychoanalyst. Adam was angry at me, Leo, and Mardou, and urged us to call her. Then, came along two fresh girls. They spent the night. Leo and Mardou lived together, going to Adam’s, and not worrying about jobs. Leo said that he had doubts when spent time together on the first nights. One day, she said she wanted to be an independent “chick.” They talked about their secrets after some first nights. He had doubts if she was a thief. But for now, he wanted her. He loved her. She said she had a disease rooted in her soul. It made him want her more.

One day, he spent a drunk night with a friend and did not go back to Mardou. He then received a letter from her stating the winter and solitude had come. She ended her letter by sending her love. He wrote back by saying to “grow old with me in my cottage of peace”. One night after severe drinking, he had a dream, a nightmare, where Mardou was necking Yuri and he hit both of them. He told them about the nightmare, leaving the hitting part. She began to realize that his writing work was more important than her. He remembered Mardou fear of some white

culture. Then, he thought about the good times he and Mardou had at a bay, at a hilltop, near a pier, talking about tales and stories. Then, he thought of the bad times they had. He remembered that they had a wonderful copulation with vivid descriptions.

And there came the pushcart incident. Yuri left a pushcart in front of Adam's buildings. Leo and Mardou were in it too last night, leaving her purse. Adam was furious with Leo, and Mardou also thought that Leo had no right to argue back with Adam. They had a fight. Leo was thinking about ditching her without being noticed for three weeks. But when Yuri and Mardou playfully wrestling and kidding in the back of the cab like in his nightmare, he became more and more jealous. He confronted her one night, and she replied that it was nothing. He did not believe it. They went on to Bromberg's. He knew that Leo was off as he mentioned that even bluebirds are bleak this morning. Mardou was sitting alone near the corner feeling my tense. Leo could not bear it anymore; he went to bed. After three hours, he woke up and found out that Bromberg, Sand, and Mardou had gone to the beach. Then, she came back and they went back home after he asked Mardou if she was sincere.

To make matters worse, there was a birthday party that night. So, they grabbed gifts with Bromberg and caught a train to the city. Leo and Mardou came back home and found Yuri in their bed. When Mardou was changing her dress, he told Yuri about his jealousy. And he told Mardou words for words about the conversation between Yuri and him. Mardou was upset at some words said by Yuri. Then, they went to Adam's, and saw an arch enemy of Leo. Mardou was boring to death by the literary talks by subterranean. She wanted to go home. But Leo sensed the coldness between them, and so he wanted to go to another party. While in the cab, they had a fight about going home and going to the party. Leo dashed out of the cab and hired another one and went to the party, even though he knew that poor and sick Mardou was alone. He felt remorse and went to the rails and cried one Saturday. He saw figures of his mother. As per schedule, he went back to Mardou's apartment, and saw that the light was out like prophesied. But she left a note that she will be back soon. Later, they had a great time and went to the show. Then, she told Leo that she had something to tell him. She also asked him to accompany her to the movie after the talk. He thought that it was over and the end as he thought she was going to break up with him. She said that she made it with Yuri one night. Leo was heartbroken, lost, and mad. He wanted to run away and broke the promise like he always does. In

the movie, they hold hands together. At home, she said that it is up to him to meet how many times with her, and she wanted to be independent. He thought that he had lost her love and wrote this book.

Summary by Thura

23rd May 2024