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## On the One-Way Street, Girl With a Dog

Asja P, the girl with a dog: sometimes I meet her walking her beautifully trained Irish setter. Her father was a philosopher, a well-known university professor, so I suppose he named his only daughter after Asja Lacis, who used to be the director of the theater in Riga. It was passionate love for Asja Lacis that made the Jewish mystic Walter Benjamin leave his wife and take an interest in the idea of radical communism. He dedicated to her his ONE-WAY STREET, a melancholy treatise about liberating life, discovering health and body, and finding peace with nature. Asja Lacis - a reference point in the sensibility of a whole generation, who set out along the one-way street in search of its lost youth. It set out, alas, went along the street of no return. The father of the girl with the dog, Professor K. P., was a prominent member of that generation, which makes my supposition quite possible. And shattering.

Asja P, we must mention, is very beautiful. The last time I saw her was at a stand with video games that her dog had taken her to. I felt a tenderness for her, so unready, so embarrassed, and wanted to write her a love letter, to test my hypothesis, but her friends wouldn't let me have her address. Stupid jerks.

*Translated by Wayles Browne - © 2008 Wayles Browne*

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