

# Movies and Songs

*by Johnny Dantonio*

Religion,  
and lovers,  
like movies,  
and songs,  
leave us to feel anything  
but lonely.

Maybe that is what connects us,  
what is innate to us all:  
a crusade against solitude.

There are places,  
Heavens,  
where we gather,  
together,  
for eternity;  
where we reunite with a collection of people  
whom we never kept.

Some songs,  
and arts,  
and sciences,  
make us think against our human nature,  
leaving us to believe,  
that we will be found  
alone,  
apart.

And then,

you are there,  
doing what our species

prays we never have to do:  
wonder.

Our consciousness was thought  
to be a gift from God,  
or from an evolutionary process  
that labeled us  
apex,

Yet it is our affliction,  
as we can only ever be  
unsure.

I don't know  
if it is better to leave such matters  
unaddressed,  
maybe to be oblivious to such a conversation  
would mean I could sleep better  
or I could fall in love.

And I don't know if investigation,  
or acknowledgement,  
would ever lead to peace,  
or promise.

But I am quite sure,  
in my loneliness,  
there is nothing that aches inside me more,  
than a desire to persist.

