

## **Billy Strayhorn**

### **"Lush Life"**

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I used to visit all the very gay places  
those come what may places  
where one relaxes on the axis of the wheel of life  
to get the feel of life  
from jazz and cocktails  
the girls i knew had sad and sullen gray faces  
with distant gay traces  
that used to be there you could see where  
they'd been washed away  
by too many through the day  
twelve o'clocktails

then you came along with your siren's song  
to tempt me to madness  
i thought for a while that your pointed smile  
was tinged with the sadness  
of a great love for me  
ah yes i was wrong  
again i was wrong

life is lonely again  
and only last year  
everything seemed so assured  
now life is awful again  
and the thoughtful of heart  
could only be a bore

a week in paris will ease the bite of it  
all i care is to smile in spite of it  
i'll forget you i will  
and yet you are still  
burning inside my brain

romance is mush  
stifling those who strive  
i'll live a lush  
life in some small dive  
and there i'll be  
while i rot with the rest  
of those whose lives are lonely too

