The Last Days of the Loneliest Woman

John Grey

College of DuPage

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The loneliest woman
plays solitaire in the kitchen
of her small three room apartment
while sipping hot tea
and listening to talk radio.

But she always dresses well,
right down to her clean underwear
because, in case she’s ever found dead,
she wants to look her best.

Of course, she knows she
won’t be found right away.
There’s never much mail in her box
and it could be a month or more
before it was filled to a suspicious amount.

But she knows nothing
about decomposing bodies,
the last gasp of body functions.
As far as she’s concerned,
she’ll be pleasant-looking and clean.
That’s all she’s ever asked of herself.

For now, she gets by
on occasional wins at her cards,
that hot tea,
and someone calling in on the radio
with an opinion she shares.

Playing and sipping and listening,
there are times she’s unaware
that she’s lonely.
In the days to come,
with any luck,
she won’t even know she’s dead.

- John Grey

“Sewing Drawer”
Molly Miklosz
Colored Pencil