

# A Confession

by [David Solway](#) (October 2023)



*Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I, Gustav Klimt, 1907*

Now that you're away  
I have a confession to make.

Your absence gives me the chance  
to spend quality time with my mistress.  
She is quiet and attentive,  
neither cold nor lewd,  
sweet and lissome as a little wind  
who never ceases to caress,  
who never leaves my side,  
who is without pretensions  
and never sets her wits to mine, forsooth,  
nor dreams of others  
nor lets herself be distracted  
by petty troubles or pretty compliments.  
She consorts with my every mood  
and is faithful to my slightest whim.  
She does not pout or bridle when I brood.  
She is straight out of Gustav Klimt, gold leaf and all,  
filling the interim with melancholy glimmers.  
I have surrendered to her many enveloping charms.  
I am lost in a state of leisurely dalliance.  
Her scent is like the scent of a good wine,  
fresh and seasoned  
with apple, pear and peach, well chambréd.  
The taste of her mouth is gingerbread and sauterne,  
her kiss is nectarine.  
She is my wife-in-waiting  
should you ever leave me.  
Her name, if you must know,  
her lovely resonant name,  
is Solitude.

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David Solway's latest book is [\*Notes from a Derelict Culture\*](#), Black House Publishing, 2019, London. A CD of his original

songs, [\*Partial to Cain\*](#), appeared in 2019.

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