

# Mr Monro

By [Kenneth Francis](#) (July 2018)



*Night Shadows*, Edward Hopper, 1921

**Mr Monro dines** out solo,  
First time in 40 years  
Across the room lovers  
Laugh into their beers  
Last winter he and Rose  
Sat there like queen and tsar  
Now she's gone he eats  
Alone in retro diner bar  
Jukebox plays 'Softly As I  
Leave You', as waitress  
Quickly cleans a table filled

With crumbs of poppy bagel  
Close to Monro a pretty pair  
Remind him of how things  
Used to be yesteryear:  
eating pasta, sipping beer  
He and Rose once sat there  
Before she became ill;  
On napkin piece he writes  
Them this, leaves and pays  
Their bill; outside, Monro walks  
Slowly, as breeze blows cold,  
Phone held to ear, listening  
To Rose on message old  
Strolls to late-night liquor store  
Where winos shout and cuss  
With bourbon wrapped in paper  
Bag he boards a city bus

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