

# Five Shorts

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (May 2023)



*Lonely Man on a Dune*, Max Liebermann, 1914

1

Although I'd hesitate to go so far  
As to say that life's a bitch,  
It's certainly no gentleman.

2

Life is like encountering a ghost:  
Only fully frightful if experienced alone.

### 3

Extinct love is rather like  
Long-superseded science.

### 4

Nobody's forgotten quite so  
Completely as a librettist.

### 5

Today it feels as though my wife  
Is merely out of town;  
I then remember that my life  
Is like a town ... *a town*.

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**Jeffrey Burghauser** is a teacher in Columbus, OH. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo and the University of Leeds. He currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad Arts Project (Israel), his poems have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Appalachian Journal*, *Fearsome Critters*, *Iceview*, *Lehrhaus*, and *New English Review*. Jeffrey's book-length collections are available on [Amazon](#), and his website is [www.jeffreyburghauser.com](http://www.jeffreyburghauser.com).

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