



Empty Roads & Broken Bottles: In search for The Great Perhaps

Charlotte Eriksson

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"All I wanted was to live a life where I could be me, and be okay with that. I had no need for material possessions, money or even close friends with me on my journey. I never understood people very well anyway, and they never seemed to understand me very well either. All I wanted was my art and the chance to be the creator of my own world, my own reality. I wanted the open road and new beginnings every day."

"Because a story comes alive when it's being told. This is when I will tell you mine. I believe in writing your own story, and that's what I'm doing here. I wanted to turn my life into art. My very existence into a poem. This is my story - my journey. It might not always be easy, but it will always be beautiful."

The story of Charlotte Eriksson, is one of those you usually see on movies. Only 18 years old she left everything she had and knew in Gothenburg, Sweden, and moved to London to dedicate her whole life to her music and art. A vague dream about reaching out turned out to be an extraordinary fight for true and real art. A journey about self-discovery, learning solitude, the difference between having a home and feeling at home and how she finally found a home in herself, in her music, in her words. Charlotte spent a year homeless on the road, sleeping at friends' and fans' floors, learning and searching. An ordinary girl created a community of over 30,000 dedicated fans online, and all alone with nothing but hard work and determination she managed to build a life on her art, being a true inspiration to so many people, showing that you can achieve and become exactly who you want to be, if you just want it bad enough.

"I packed light and spent 18 months on the road, homeless and at home. Lost but unable to be lost because I had no destination. I arrived in new cities every morning, scraped coins to afford coffee and then tried to find the busiest venue in town where I begged to get to play a set or two. If I was lucky I sold albums enough to afford the train the next day. If I was luckier I could afford whiskey and if I was a god damn star I got some tip from the sound-guy. You read and write and sing and experience, thinking that one day these things will build the character you admire to live as. You love and lose and bleed best you can to the extreme, hoping that one day the world will read you as the poem you want to be. One day, things will change and you will not have to struggle every day to convince people that you and your art is good enough. One day, you will simply be able to be you, and be okay with that"

... But somewhere on the road I started to feel drained. There I was with no belongings but my guitar and a few pair of clothes, ripping my heart out in every single way, but no one seemed to understand what I was

saying, what I was singing about, what I tried to do. I screamed my heart out every night, and no one seemed to care. I pushed and cried and fought and struggled my way through the days, with nothing in return but the so called blessing of getting to do it the next day again. A constant fever from sleeping on floors, cheap instant coffee and if I'm lucky a little tip under the table from the bar-staff. I loved living like a wanderer, not owning keys, new beginnings every day, but I started to get scared. You're never really relaxed, you're always watching your back, always worrying. Will things ever change?"

I learned more than I ever thought I would this year, and I learned it by the ruthless life itself. I'm ready to use my struggles, the strength I've grown and the lessons I've learned to tell the world about the artist, the person I've come to be. I'm not doing this to get the world's approval anymore. I know what I want now. For so long I let my life slip through my fingers, like water."

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