

Measure for Measure

64

is a burdensome
number to bear
and the back of me
hurts bad.
But up front I'm—

I'm riding bareback
on The Drive
and coming
within inches of him
and me in love where
every now and then it's
always 19 and /73 all
over again.

Joe L,
2014

Note: Commercial Drive is home to Little Italy in East Vancouver. Commonly referred to as The Drive, it has long been a favourite neighbourhood of folks who identify as LGBTQ+. This is an alternative version of the same-titled poem that appears in “The Dreamer and the Dreamed.”