

London Night

London. Night. Peering out the window. The damp, most insidious* of all enemies, swells the wood, furs the kettle, rusts the iron, rots the stone. The stars reflect themselves in deep pits of stagnant water which lie in the middle of the streets. The black shadow at the corner where the wine shop stands is likely as not the corpse of a murdered man.

Cries of the wounded in night brawls, troops of ruffians, men and woman unspeakably interlaced,* lurch down the streets, trolling* out old songs, with jewels flashing in their ears, and knives gleaming in their fists.

To the north, the outline of Hampstead Forest, contorted,* writhing, against the sky. Here and there on the hills above London, a stark gallows tree, with a parched* or rotting corpse. Danger and insecurity, lust and violence, poetry and filth, roam the narrow pathways of the city, and buzz and stink.

insidious - sinister, *interlaced* - interwoven, *trolling* - singing heartily, *contorted* - twisted, *parched* - dried up; desiccated

London Night

- 1 London. Night. Peering out the window.
- 2 The damp, most insidious* of all enemies,
swells the wood, furs the kettle, rusts the iron, rots the stone.
- 3 The stars reflect themselves in deep pits of stagnant water
which lie in the middle of the streets.
- 4 The black shadow at the corner where the wine shop stands
is likely as not the corpse of a murdered man.
- 5 Cries of the wounded in night brawls, troops of ruffians,
men and woman unspeakably interlaced,* lurch down the streets,
- 6 trolling* out old songs, with jewels flashing in their ears,
and knives gleaming in their fists.
- 7 To the north, the outline of Hampstead Forest,
contorted,* writhing, against the sky.
- 8 Here and there on the hills above London,
a stark gallows tree, with a parched* or rotting corpse.
- 9 Danger and insecurity, lust and violence, poetry and filth,
10 roam the narrow pathways of the city, and buzz and stink.

insidious - sinister, *interlaced* - interwoven, *trolling* - singing heartily, *contorted* - twisted,
parched - dried up; desiccated