

Explore the Poetic Wonders of London: A Collection of Classic Verses

London, the capital city of the United Kingdom, has always been a source of inspiration for poets and writers. Its rich history, vibrant culture, and iconic landmarks have been beautifully captured in countless poems throughout the years. In this article, we will delve into the world of London's classic verse, discovering the hidden gems that bring the city's essence to life in the most captivating way.

1. Westminster Abbey: A Symphony of Words

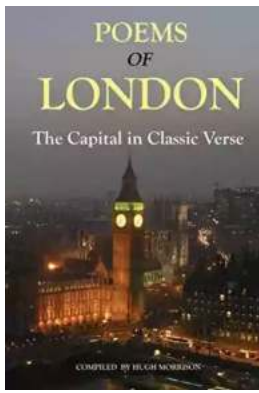
On The Tombs In Westminster Abbey

MORTALITY, behold and fear!
What a change of flesh is here!
Think how many royal bones
Sleep within this heap of stones:
Here they lie had realms and lands,
Who now want strength to stir their hands:
Where from their pulpits seal'd with dust
They preach, 'In greatness is no trust.'
Here 's an acre sown indeed

With the richest, royall'st seed
That the earth did e'er suck in
Since the first man died for sin:
Here the bones of birth have cried--
'Though gods they were, as men they died.'
Here are sands, ignoble things,
Dropt from the ruin'd sides of kings;
Here 's a world of pomp and state,
Buried in dust, once dead by fate.

Francis Beaumont

When one thinks of London, the magnificent Westminster Abbey often comes to mind. The grandeur of its architecture and the aura of history that surrounds it have been eloquently described in verses that transport the reader to a different era. Dive into the depths of poems like "The Light of Westminster Abbey" or "Echoes of the Past" to feel the soul-stirring magic that this UNESCO World Heritage Site exudes.



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by Hugh Morrison (Kindle Edition)

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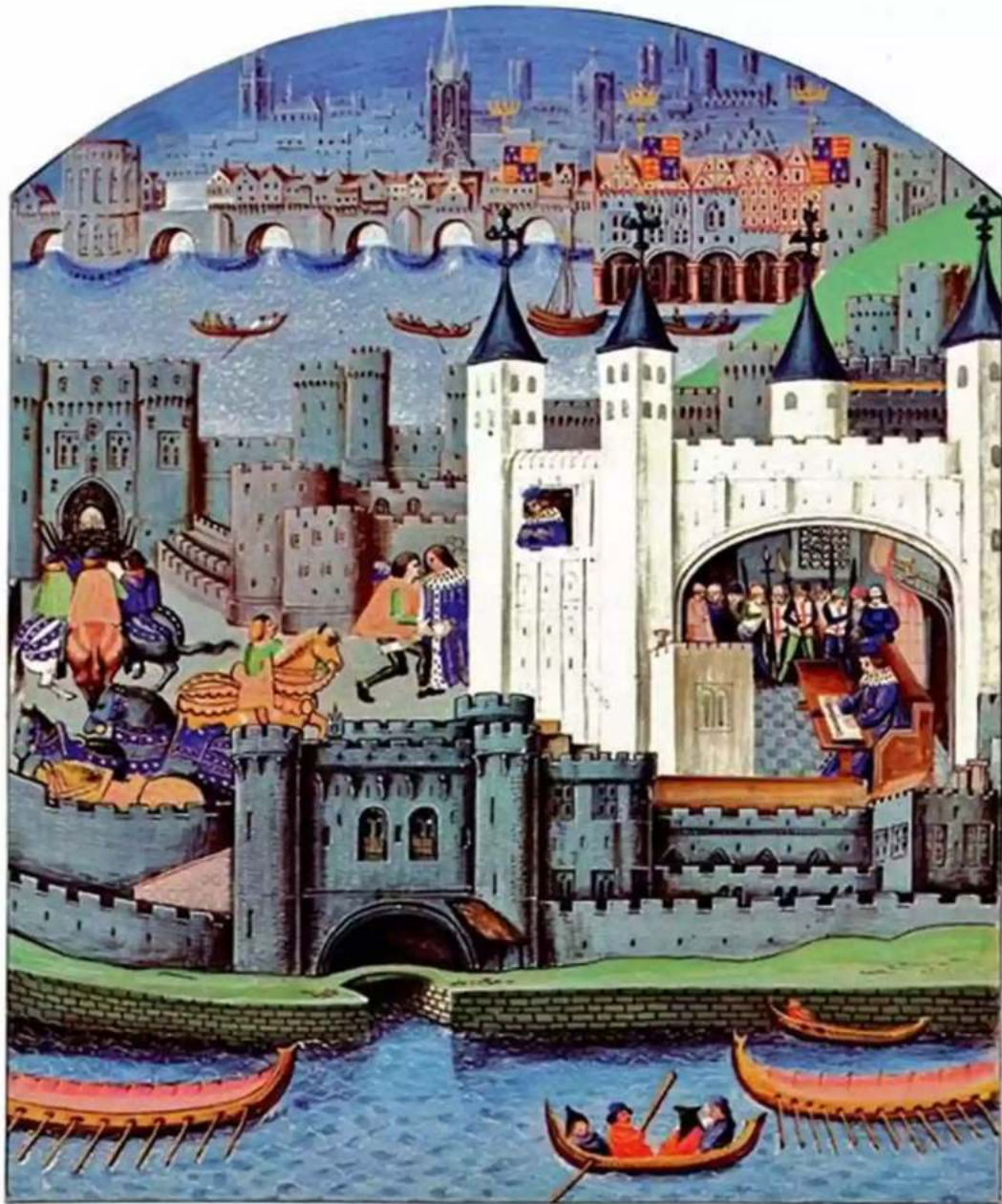


2. The Thames: A Silent Witness

Let us look at the River Thames One of England's watery gems, Oily, brown, greasy, muddy, Looking foul and smells of cruddy, The Conssevancy say they're cleaning it. So why is it the colour of shit?

The iconic River Thames, snaking its way through the heart of London, has been the subject of countless poems. Its tranquil waters have witnessed the city's stories unfold across centuries. From William Wordsworth's "Upon Westminster Bridge" to T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land," these timeless verses capture the essence of the river, inviting readers to explore its symbolism and reflect on the ever-changing nature of life.

3. The Tower of London: Tales of Mystery and Intrigue



Guarding the city for nearly a thousand years, the Tower of London is a fortress steeped in history. It has inspired poets to weave tales of treason, imprisonment, and royal secrets within its formidable walls. Explore poems like "Whispers of the Tower" or "In the Shadows of the Keep" to discover the dark beauty that lies within this iconic landmark.

4. Covent Garden: An Artistic Haven

The Convent Garden

The Convent garden lies so near
The road the people go,
If it was quiet you might hear
The nuns' talk, merry and low.

Black London trees have made their screen
From folk who pry and peer,
The sooty sparrows now begin
Their talk of country cheer.

And round and round by twos and threes
The nuns walk, praying still
For fighting men across the seas
Who die to save them ill.

From the dear prison of her choice
The young nun's thoughts are far;
She muses on the golden boys
At all the Fronts of War.

Now from her narrow Convent house
She sees where great ships be,
And plucks the robe of God, her Spouse,
To give the victory.

Under her robe her heart's a-beat,
Her maiden pulses stir,
At sound of marching in the street,
To think they die for her!

And now beneath the veil and hood
Her hidden eyes will glow,
The battle ardour's in her blood --
If she might strike one blow!

And when she sleeps at last perchance
Her soul hath slipped away
To fields of Serbia and of France
Until the dawn of day.

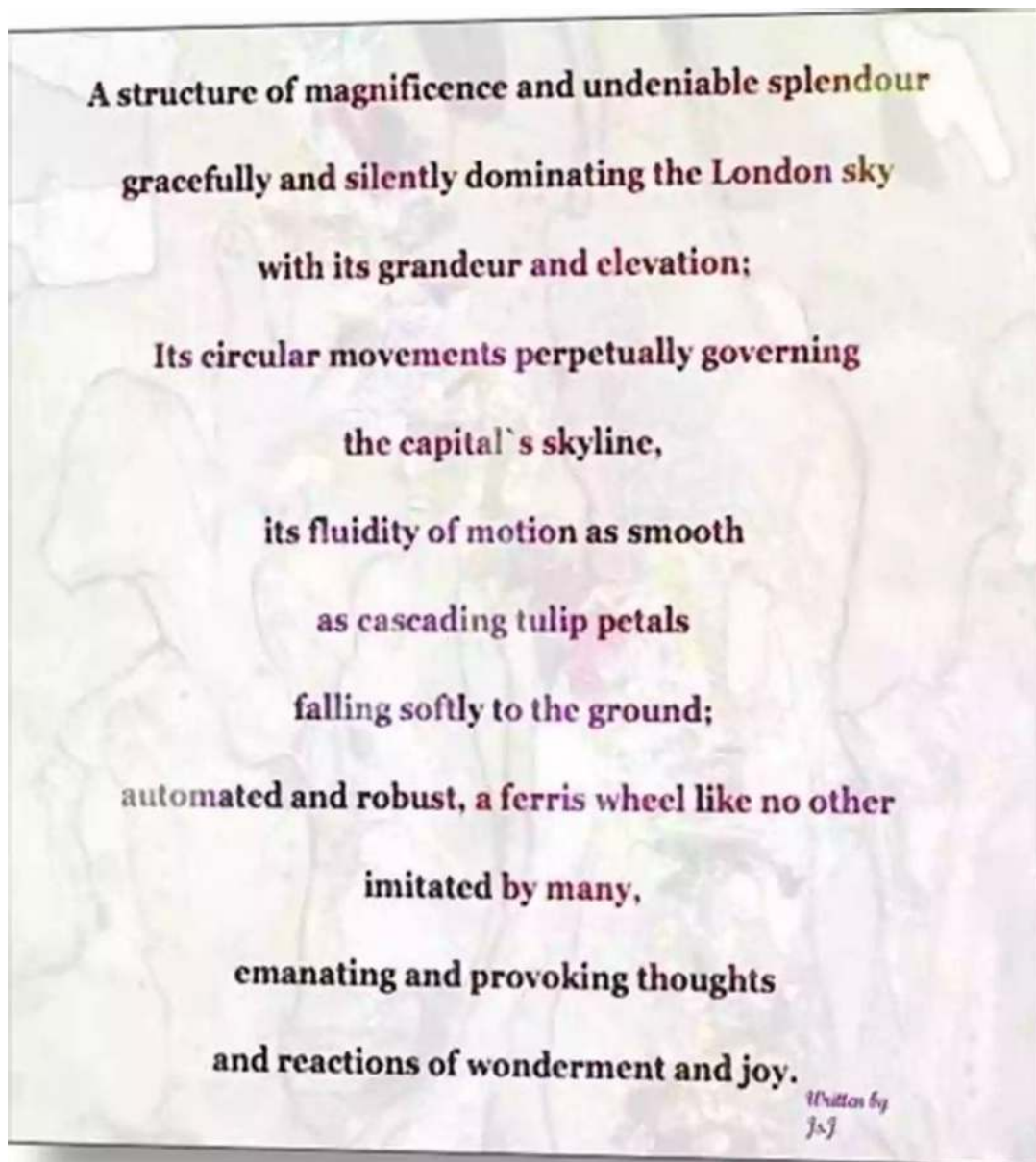
She wanders by the still moonbeam
By dying and by dead,
And many a broken man will dream
An angel lifts his head.

All day and night as a sweet smoke

Katharine Tynan

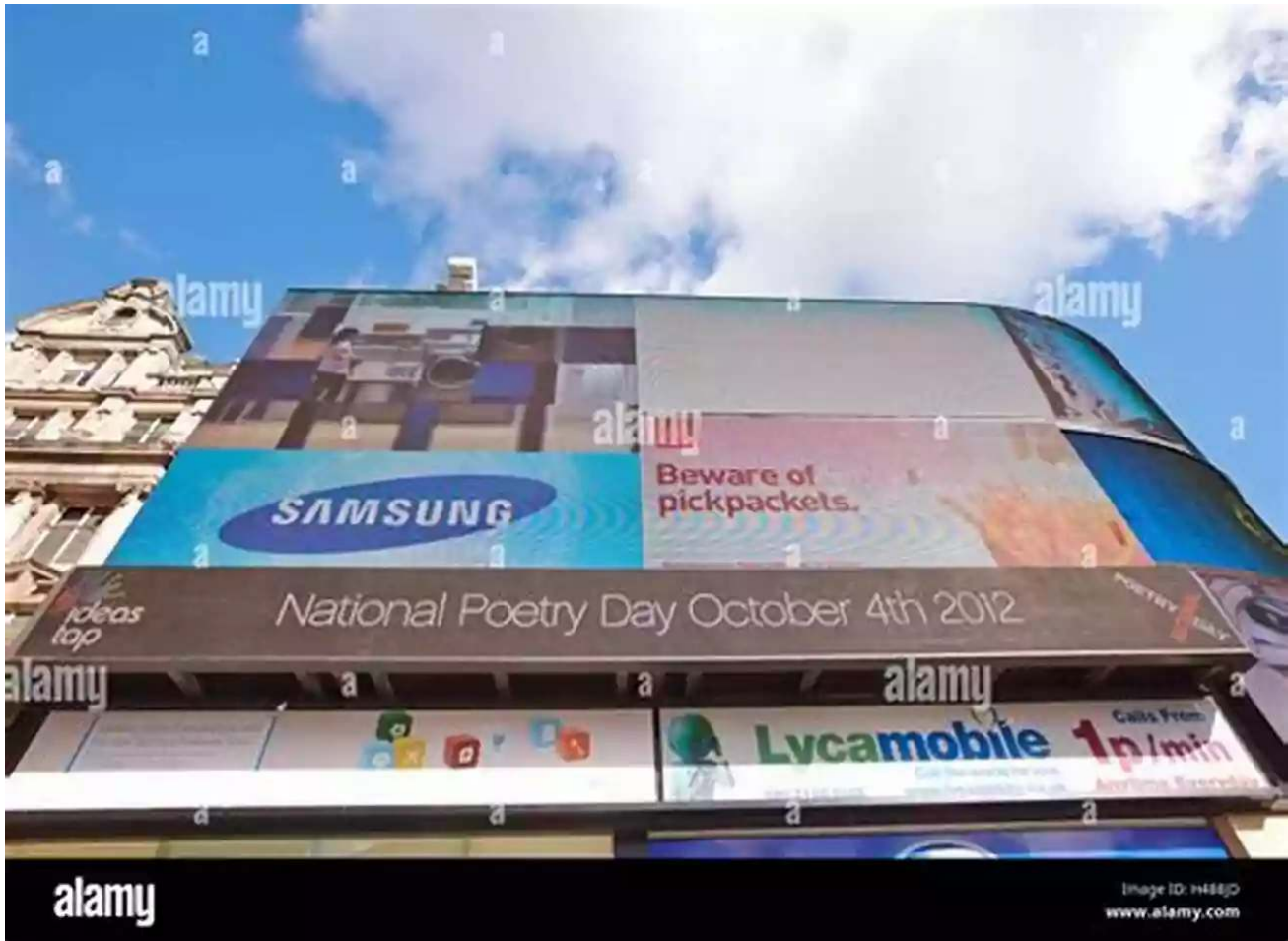
Once a fruit and vegetable market, Covent Garden has transformed into an artistic hub where performers and artists come together to showcase their talents. Poems dedicated to Covent Garden, such as "The Vibrant Tapestry" or "The Buskers of the Piazza," paint a picture of the lively atmosphere and artistic energy that permeates its streets. Lose yourself in the rhythm of words that dance to the melodies of this enchanting place.

5. The London Eye: A Modern Marvel



A relatively new addition to the London skyline, the London Eye has quickly become an iconic landmark. Poets have embraced its unique structure and breathtaking views to convey a sense of wonder and reflection. Engage with verses like "Observing Life's Carousel" or "A Journey into the Sky" to experience the magical allure that this modern marvel brings to the city's poetic landscape.

6. Piccadilly Circus: The Heartbeat of London



The vibrant neon lights, bustling crowds, and lively energy of Piccadilly Circus have long inspired poets to capture the essence of this iconic intersection. Words like "Neon Symphony" or "An Unhurried Waltz amidst Chaos" bring to life the constant movement and vibrant spirit that make Piccadilly Circus a beloved symbol of London's liveliness.

7. Hyde Park: Serenity in the Midst of Chaos

A Hyde Park Larrikin

You may have heard of Proclus, sir,
If you have been a reader;
And you may know a bit of her
Who helped the Lycian leader.
I have my doubts -- the head you "sport"
(Now mark me, don't get crusty)
Is hardly of the classic sort --
Your lore, I think, is fusty.

Most likely you have stuck to tracts
Flushed through with flaming curses --
I judge you, neighbour, by your acts --
So don't you damn my verses.

But to my theme. The Asian sage,
Whose name above I mention,
Lived in the pitchy Pagan age,
A life without pretension.

He may have worshipped gods like Zeus,
And termed old Dis a master;
But then he had a strong excuse --
He never heard a pastor.

However, it occurs to me
That, had he cut Demeter
And followed you, or followed me,
He wouldn't have been sweeter.

No doubt with "shepherds" of this time
He's not the "clean potato",
Because -- excuse me for my rhyme --
He pinned his faith to Plato.

But these are facts you can't deny,
My pastor, smudged and sooty,
His mind was like a summer sky --
He lived a life of beauty --

To lift his brothers' thoughts above
This earth he used to labour:
His heart was luminous with love --
He didn't wound his neighbour.

To him all men were just the same --
He never foamed at altars,

Henry Kendall

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, Hyde Park offers a peaceful sanctuary where nature reigns supreme. Poems dedicated to this green oasis, such as "Whispers of Tranquility" or "A Walk Through Serenity," allow readers to escape into a world of calm amidst the urban chaos. Discover the hidden verses that capture the allure of this beautiful park.

8. St. Paul's Cathedral: A Heavenly Abode

Approach To St. Paul's

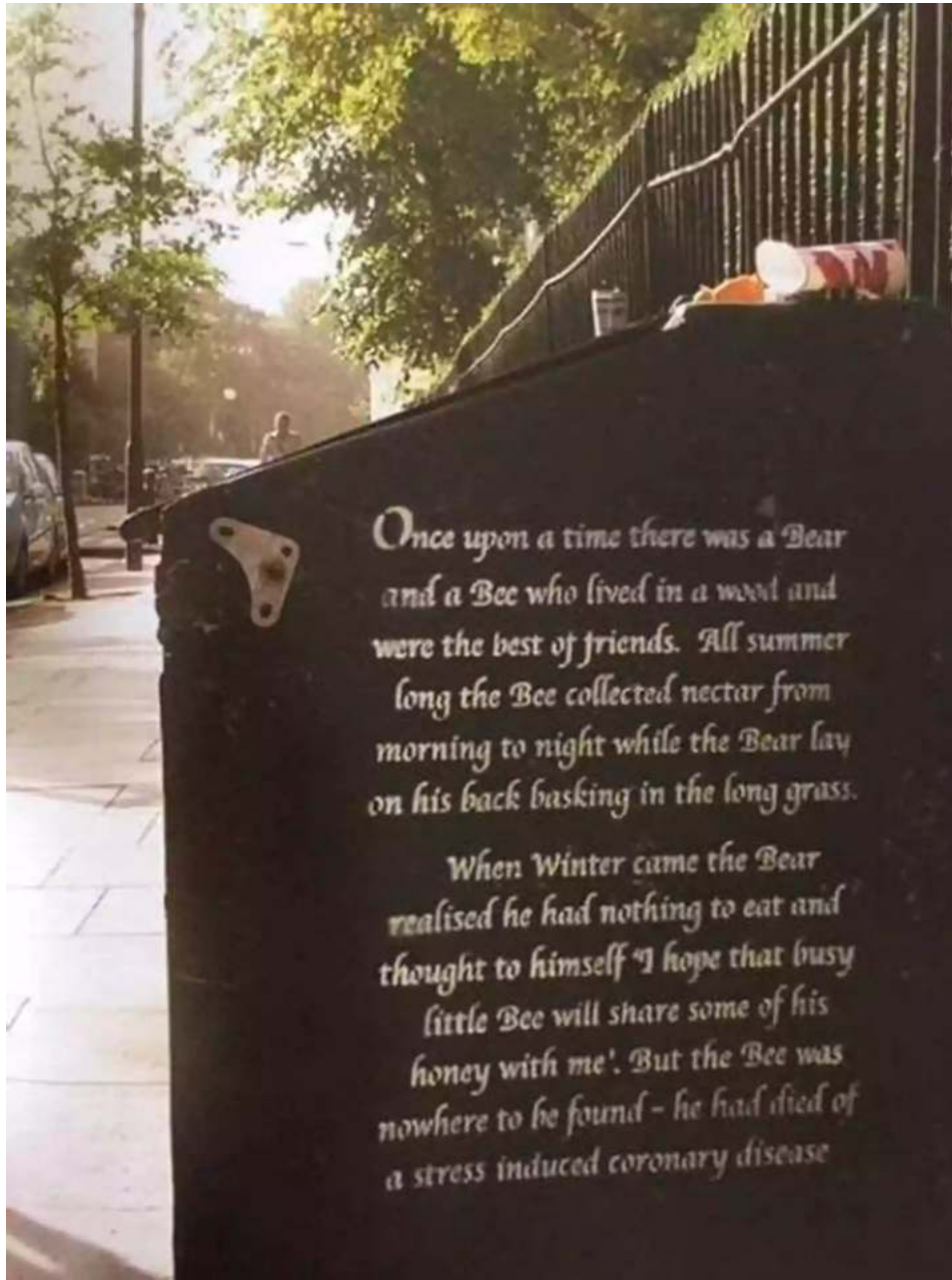
**Eastwards through busy streets I lingered on;
Jostled by anxious crowds, who, heart and brain,
Were so absorbed in dreams of Mammon-gain,
That they could spare no time to look upon
The sunset's gold and crimson fires, which shone
Blessing keen eyes and wrinkled brows in vain.**

**Right in my path stood out that solemn Fane
Whose soaring cupola of stern grey stone
Lifteth for awful beacon to the sky
The burning Cross: silent and sole amid
That ceaseless uproar, as a pyramid
Isled in its desert. The great throngs pressed by
Heedless and urgent thus Religion towers
Above this sordid, restless life of ours.**

James Thomson

Rising majestically above the city, St. Paul's Cathedral stands as a testament to London's architectural splendor. Its awe-inspiring beauty has inspired poets to create verses that exalt the grandeur and spiritual significance of this iconic cathedral. Revel in the verses of "Whispers from the Dome" or "The Divine Symphony" to experience the magnificence of St. Paul's through the eyes of gifted poets.

9. Notting Hill: A Tapestry of Charm



Notting Hill, with its colorful houses, quaint streets, and vibrant energy, has captivated poets and writers for generations. Dive into poems like "The Essence of Portobello Road" or "Through the Windows of Notting Hill" to immerse yourself in the charm and eclectic allure of this beloved neighborhood. Let the words transport you to the heart of this cultural melting pot.

10. Trafalgar Square: A Hub of History and Inspiration

Trafalgar Square

These verses have I pilfered like a bee
Out of a letter from my C. C. C.
In London, showing what befell him there,
With other things, of interest to me

One page described a night in open air
He spent last summer in Trafalgar Square,
With men and women who by want are driven
Thither for lodging, when the nights are fair.

No roof there is between their heads and heaven,
No warmth but what by ragged clothes is given,
No comfort but the company of those
Who with despair, like them, have vainly striven.

On benches there uneasily they doze,
Snatching brief morsels of a poor repose,
And if through weariness they might sleep sound,
Their eyes must open almost ere they close.

With even tramp upon the paven ground,
Twice every hour the night patrol comes round
To clear these wretches off, who may not keep
The miserable couches they have found.

Yet the stern shepherds of the poor black sheep
Will soften when they see a woman weep.
There was a mother there who strove in vain,
With sobs, to hush a starving child to sleep.

And through the night which took so long to wane,
He saw sad sufferers relieving pain,
And daughters of iniquity and scorn
Performing deeds which God will not disdain.

There was a girl, forlorn of the forlorn,
Whose dress was white, but draggled, soiled, and torn,
Who wandered like a ghost without a home,
She spoke to him before the day was born.

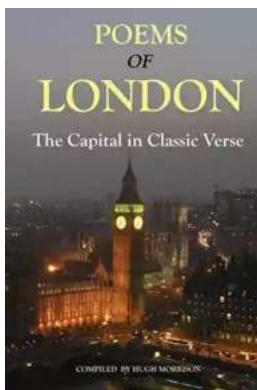
She, who all night, when spoken to, was dumb,
Earning dislike from most, abuse from some,
Now asked the hour, and when he told her 'Two,'
Wailed, 'O my God, will daylight never come?'

Yes, it will come, and change the sky anew

Robert Fuller Murray

Trafalgar Square, with its towering column and iconic lion statues, has been a gathering place for artists, protestors, and poets throughout history. Dive into verses like "The Roar of Defiance" or "A Meeting of Hearts" to capture the essence of this historic square and the emotions it evokes. Discover the poetic tales that have been etched into the very fabric of Trafalgar Square.

The diverse and magnificent city of London has provided endless inspiration for poets from all over the world. Through their verses, we can immerse ourselves in the captivating beauty, history, and culture that make London truly unique. Whether it's the grand landmarks, vibrant streets, or tranquil parks, there is a poem that encapsulates the essence of each facet of this magnificent city. So next time you find yourself strolling through the streets of London, take a moment to appreciate the poetic layers that surround you, for poetry is the heartbeat that brings this remarkable city to life.



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'London, thou art the flower of cities all!'

William Dunbar (1459-1513)

Steeped in history, culture and traditions, London remains one of the largest and most populous cities on the planet. Small wonder then, that some of history's greatest poets have been inspired by it.

This illustrated collection of classic London verse contains poetry by writers such as Thomas Hardy, D.H. Lawrence and William Wordsworth, from the sixteenth to

the twentieth century.

The poems praise the pageantry and history of the capital, as well as the natural beauty of its gardens, suburbs and mighty river. Yet some also express the melancholy, loneliness and alienation sometimes felt by the city's inhabitants.

If you live in London or are just a visitor, you will find many poems in this book for inspiration and reflection.



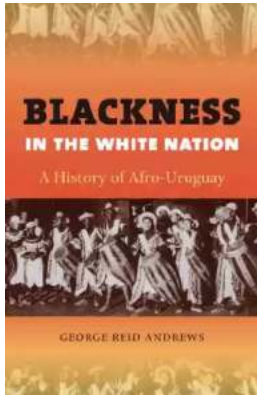
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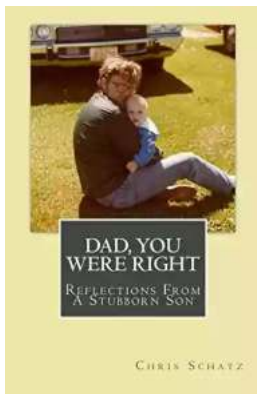
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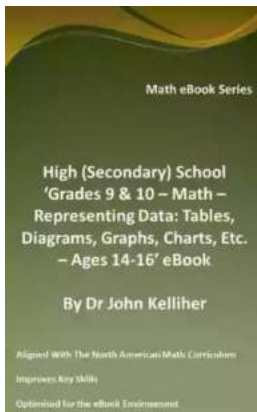
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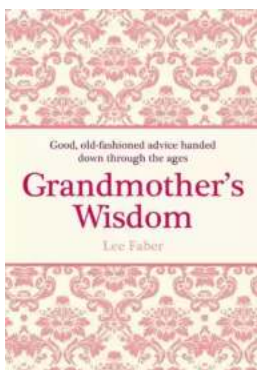
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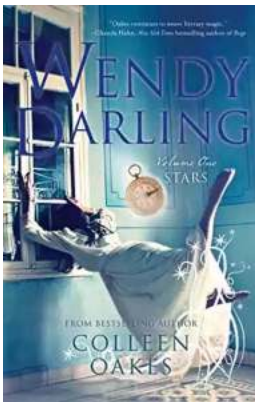
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