

# Lights and Shadows

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## Poverty

Dale Jackson

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JACKSON

Poverty

I.

A flock of birds flew past my window

Crashing into trees

Beating on the tattered screen

Flying up and falling,

Flying away and falling

All's fate to touch the ground.

A flock of leaves batters the door.

II.

A blackened chimney silhouetted

In the distance against a leaf-branched backdrop,

While a single chimney sweep skirts away.

The people below seem tired and sleepy.

III.

Half of the blackened wall slips into white

With webbed fingers frantically clutching.

The bottom of feet send the floor to laughter

And the rain splits and splashes on

The only chair.