

Mere dark

is not so night-like as it seems

For a cappella voices



Joelle Wallach

The Day's No Rounder Than Its Angles Are

For Anya

Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems.
The night's more silken than the dark by far.
So many dark things are not night at all:
The cupboard where the cakes and poisons are;
The coffin where old men get locked in dreams
Alive, and no one hears their knocks and screams;
Shadows; and lightlessness of curtain's fall.

The night is further than the dark is far.
The night is farness, farnesses that reel.
The day is nearnesses, nearnesses that jar.
The day's no rounder than its angles are.
But though its angles gash you with a wound
Invisible, each night is soft and round.

The night is softer than the dark is satin.
The night is softness, softnesses that heal
The many, many gashes where you bled.
The day is loudness, loudnesses that threaten;
An evil sexton-dwarf hides in your head.
Oh, where escape his bells that peal and peal?

The night is stiller than the dark is dead.

Peter Viereck

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Misterioso ♩ = 74

SOPRANO
 Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems. The night's more sil-ken than the

ALTO
 Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems. The night's more sil-ken than the

TENOR
 Mere dark, dark, is not so night like as it seems, The night, the night's

BASS
 Mere dark, dark is not so night-like as it seems. The night, the night's

3

S.
 dark by far. So ma - ny dark things are not night at all, things are not night at

A.
 dark by far. *p sotto voce* The night is dark - er than the dark. *mp* not night at all, *pp* things are not night at

T.
 dark by far. So ma - ny dark things are not night at all, things are not night at

B.
 dark by far. *p sotto voce* The night is dark - er than the dark. *mp* not night at all, *pp* So ma - ny dark things are not night at

6

S. *mp* *p* *sub. fp*
all: the cof - fin where old men get locked in dreams a -

A. *p sotto voce* *fp* *mp* *p* *sub. fp*
all: the cup - board where the cof - fin where old men get locked in dreams a -

T. *p sotto voce* *fp* *mp* *mp* *p* *sub. fp*
all: the cup - board where the cakes and poi - sons are; the cof - fin where old men get locked in dreams a -

B. *fp* *mp* *p* *sub. fp*
all: where the cakes and poi - sons are; the cof - fin where old men get locked in dreams a -

9

S. *fp* *mp dolce*
live, sha - dows, and light The night is

A. *fp* *mp dolce*
live, sha - dows, and light - less - ness of cur tain's fall. The night is

T. *mp* *mp dolce*
live, and no one hears their knocks and screams and light - less, light - less - ness of cur tain's fall. The night is

B. *mp* *mp dolce*
live, and no one hears their knocks and screams and light - less, light - less - ness of cur tain's fall. The night is

12

S. *mf* *mp* *mf*
fur - ther than the dark is far. The night is far - ness, far - ness - es that reel. near - ness - es that jar.

A. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
fur - ther than the dark is far. The night is far - ness, far - ness - es that reel. The day is near - ness - es that jar. The

T. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
fur - ther than the dark is far. The night, far - ness - es that reel. The day is near - ness - es that jar. The

B. *mf* *mf* *p*
fur - ther than the dark is far. The night, far - ness - es that reel. jar. The

15

S. *mf*

A. *mp* *p* *mf* But though its an-gles gash you with a

T. *mp* *p* *mf* day is near-ness-es that jar. The day's no round-er than its an-gles are. But though, its an-gles gash you with a

B. *mp* *p* *mf* day, the day's no round-er, round-er than its an-gles are. Though, oh, its an-gles gash you with a

18

S. *subito p* *sfz* > 3 In - vi - si - ble

A. *subito p* *sfp* *mp* wound, But though its an-gles gash you with a wound But though its an-gles gash you, oh! Each night is soft and

T. *mp* *sfp* *sfz* > 3 *mp* wound, an-gles gash you with a wound its an-gles gash you, Oh, in - vi - si - ble Each night soft,

B. *mp* *sfz* *mp* wound, an-gles gash you But though its an-gles gash, Oh, soft, soft and

21

S. *pp* *dolcis. lontano* The night is soft-er than the dark is sa-tin.

A. *pp* *pp* *dolcis. lontano* *mp* round, Each night is soft and round. The night is soft-er than the dark is sa-tin. Each

T. *pp* *pp* *mp* soft and round, Each night is soft and round. The nights, the dark sa-tin. Each

B. *p* *pp* *mp* round, round. The nights, the dark sa-tin. Each

24

S. *mf dolce* The night is soft ness - es that heal. *mp* The ma - ny ga - shes where you bled, *poco*

A. *mf dolce* The night is soft ness - es that heal. *mp* The ma - ny ga - shes where you bled, *poco*

T. night is soft and round. *mp* round - ness that heals. *mf dolce* the ga - shes

B. night is soft and round. *mp* round - ness that heals. *mf dolce* the ga - shes

27

S. *mp* the day is loud-ness, loud - ness-es that *fp* threat-en; An *sfz e poco ruvido* e - vil sex - ton dwarf *fp* hides in your head. Oh *mp* *sfz*

A. *mp* the day is loud, *fp* An *sfz e poco ruvido* e - vil sex - ton dwarf, an *fp* e - vil sex - ton dwarf *mp* hides in your head. Oh *sfz*

T. where you bled, loud, *sfp* loud-ness - es that *sfz e poco ruvido* threat-en; An *fp* e - vil sex - ton dwarf *pp sotto voce* *mp* hides in your head. Oh *sfz*

B. where you bled, *sfz e poco ruvido* An *fp* e - vil sex - ton dwarf, an *pp sotto voce* e - vil sex - ton dwarf *mp* Oh *sfz*

poco allargando

A Tempo

30

S. *sffz* where es - cape his bells that peal and peal? The night is still - er than the dark is dead. *sfz* Mere dark is not so *subito pp lontano e dolce espress.*

A. *sffz* where es - cape his bells that peal and peal? The night is still - er than the dark is dead. *sfz* Mere dark is not so *subito pp lontano e dolce espress.*

T. where es - cape his bells that peal and peal? The night is still - er than *sfz* dead. The night is dark - er than, than it seems, *mp sotto voce* *mp*

B. where es - cape his bells that peal and peal? The night is still - er than *sffz* dead. The night is dark - er than, *sfz* *mp sotto voce*

33

S. *mp dolce* night - like as it seems. Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems, *mf ma molto dolce* The night's more sil - ken than the dark by

A. *mp dolce* night - like as it seems. Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems, *mf ma molto dolce* The night's more sil - ken than the dark by

T. *mp dolce* than it seems. Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems. *mf* The night, the night's dark by

B. *mp dolce* than it seems. Mere dark is not night-like as it seems. *mf* The night, the night's dark by

36

S. *mp* far. So ma - ny dark things are not night at all, *sfz* In - vi - si - ble. *mp*

A. *p sotto voce* far. The night's more silk - en than the dark, *mp* not night at all, *mp* Each night is soft and round.

T. *mp* far. So ma - ny dark things are not night at all, *sfz* in - vi - si - ble, *mp* Each night soft

B. *p sotto voce* far. The night's more silk - en than the dark, *mp* not night at all, *sfz* in - vi - si - ble *mfp* soft, *mp* soft

39

S. *mp dolcis. lontano* Mere dark is not so night - like as it seems. *espressivo* The night's more sil - ken than the

A. *p* Each night is soft and round. *mp dolcis. lontano* Mere dark is not so night - like as it seems. *espressivo* The night's more sil - ken than the

T. *p* and round, Each night is soft and round. *mp dolcis. lontano* Mere dark is not so night like as it seems. *espressivo* The night, the night's

B. *mp dolcis. lontano* and round. Mere dark is not so night - like as it seems, *espressivo* The night, the night's

42

S. *p dolce* dark by far. Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems. _____ *mp* is

A. *p dolce* dark by far. Mere dark is not so night-like as it seems. _____ *mp* is

T. *p sotto voce* dark by far. The night is fur-ther than it, fur-ther than it seems, _____ *mp* it seems. Mere dark _____

B. *p sotto voce* dark by far. The night is fur-ther than it, fur-ther than it seems, _____ *mp* it seems. Mere dark _____

45

S. *rit.* *pp lontano* not so night-like as it seems. _____ *p* is not so night-like as it seems, it seems.

A. *pp lontano* not so night-like as it seems. _____ *p* is not so night-like as it seems, it seems.

T. *p lontano* _____ *pp* *p* is not so night-like as it seems. _____ it seems, it seems.

B. *p lontano* _____ *pp* *p* is not so night-like as it seems. _____ it seems, it seems.