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Moon Phantoms

By DOROTHY HAYNES MADLE'

THE years are hungry hounds that run and bay
Upon the spoor of our slow-paced delight;
Awhile we hold them with the lifted lash
Of laughter—but the moon is low tonight.

The moon behind us is a golden club
Driving ahead the shadows of the years;
They overtake ours, dark upon the grass
—Swift are the moon-cast phantoms, swift the fears.

Have you a morsel to cast back, to set
The time-hounds from our traces? See, I fling
Before their avid jaws by little store
Of garnered necromancy, and you sing
A brave, high melody, and they are still.
What is that other shadow, walking vast
Toward us? As it strides the sloping hill
Its hands hold looped grey leashes, and the pack
Runs silent to its heel. Where is the moon?
Where are the yapping shadows—and our own?

