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The Curse By PAGE COOPER

WHEN the moon is dark as a black bat's throat,
The stars are hidden, the night is dim,
The dead air shivers at grunt of stoat
Rootling the leaves where grave stones glim.

Beware of the herbs with their leaves stemmed up
Touch no yarrow and taste no scud
Of foxglove wine from a ghost girl's cup,
Drink no philtre of lapwing's blood.

Make no mock of the black jay's mate
Nor the witless grief of the mourning dove,
Or you'll die of loving what you should hate,
Cursed with hating what you should love.