

TWICE UPON A TIME

(In gratitude to Tom Murphy whose parable it is)

There was a wood

(Magical)

Sunlight

(Intermittent)

Moonlight

(Until cock-crow).

Twice-upon-a-time

There was a Ponce

(Pent-up, pursued)

A Whore

(Washed-up, peroxide)

A Prince

(Archaic, purposeful)

An orphan

(Lovelorn, angelic)

And

Of course

A Plot

—There has

To be

A Plot

The audience

i.e.

The critics

Insist.

Now the Parable

i.e.

The Plot

Is this:

The Pursuit

Of the Good

By the Wicked

i.e.

Themselves

The Pursuit

*Of the Wicked
By the Good
i.e.
Themselves
And
The Wicked
Laughed
Till they cried
And cried
Till they laughed
Till it
Killed them
The Good
Didn't laugh
They were
Too good
For words
Too good
For this life
Too good
To be true . . .
And the Good
Died
Violent
Beautiful
Deaths
In
The magical wood
In
The shadows
Between
The tree trunks
After
Cock-crow
After
Sunrise*

*In
The Morning
After
Optimism
And
The Purposeful Ponce
And
The Angelic Whore
Were smeared
With innocence
Instead
Of blood
Or guilt
And this time
(Upon-a-time)
They cried
Till they bled
Purged
Of the deadwood
Purged
Of the deadlock
Of Good
Of Evil.*

*Thus
The Morning
After Optimism
Brought death
And Death
Brought
Neither victory
Nor defeat
Neither victors
Nor victims
Neither hope
Nor despair*

*But
Simply
Another
Kind
Of
Optimism.*