



English Academy Review

A Journal of English Studies

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/racr20>

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To cite this article: Kobus Moolman (2022) Drawing the Dark, English Academy Review, 39:2, 103-103, DOI: [10.1080/10131752.2022.2157110](https://doi.org/10.1080/10131752.2022.2157110)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10131752.2022.2157110>



Published online: 10 Jan 2023.



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Drawing the Dark

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Day and night, night after night,
deep in his prayer, he deliberated whether
it was possible to draw the dark without ever looking at it.

He had his head in his hands.
His hands covered his eyes.
His breath caught on words that tasted like ash.

Day and night, night after night,
he dragged his slow feet across
the frozen lake of memory. It was dark always

there beneath that bright layer of appearances;
a darkness he trusted, the way a child
trusts his mother to recognise him in the rush after the bell.

Day and night, oh, night after night,
after so many mistakes, so many times
around the same stale track, he had begun to wonder

whether it could ever be possible to look,
only look into the inside of that darkness
without being turned into it.

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Taylor & Francis Group



English Academy Review
www.tandfonline.com/racr
Volume 39 | Number 2 | 2022 | p. 103

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10131752.2022.2157110>
ISSN 1753-5360 (Online), ISSN 1013-1752 (Print)
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