

# SAMPLE TEXT

Our Lady By The Beach Over The Sea  
by  
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*“phantasy was lost, where reason fades,  
in the calm twilight of Platonic shades.”*  
John Keats: *Lamia*

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Dramatis Personae

EM AKERS/ MS MUTTON	woman in her mid sixties
JAY DOWDEN:	a man in his late sixties
NIM / NYMPH:	an operatic singer / nymph / writer / Daughter of Em Akers
LAMIA / MIA (INTRUDER 1):	a ghostly snake woman from Keats' poems / worker at Star Of The Sea nursing home
LYCIUS / LUCAS (INTRUDER 2):	a ghostly knight from Keats' poems / worker from Star Of The Sea Nursing Home

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The Scene:

EM lives in a mirrored apartment with ocean views and with mirrors that reflect back the view of the ocean. She is visited by a man who once painted her fifty years earlier. She was his muse and she inspired poetry and his subsequent ventures in art throughout his life. A twilight on the beach in 1963 finished a budding relationship.

- WHAT is the mirror house by the beach?

It attempts to reflect back life through art and poetry – some form of metaphorical basis for understanding or comprehending mysteries in one's life.

- WHO is Our Lady in the Mirror House? Seeing the water; hearing the constant sound of the ocean; drinking red wine ...
- The MAN (Jay) visits her in HER place only to be CONFINED in her place
- Was her place his conception? His conception all along ... meaning he is trapped or incarcerated in his creation of HER
- SO once again, WHO or WHAT are the INTRUDERS????  
Are they archetypes drawn from KEATS' poems?

# 1

A wandering pale Knight moves through a forest of mirrors reflecting water from the beach. Other figures appear. A ghostly apparition, a mythic nymph, an old man. At an appropriate moment in the dance of shadows and mirrors, the figure of EM emerges.

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VOICE

blue!  
blue water!  
blue air!  
blue sand;  
death blue!  
blue dream;  
death dream!  
on a cold sea  
cold lips  
skin  
eyes  
cold eyes  
death eyes  
lips  
moving  
blue mouth  
beneath the sand  
by the sea

---

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the sound of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the light of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the wet of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the thirst of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the sand of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the person of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the dream of a beach

this is the cry of a beach

this the memory of a beach

this is the love of a beach

EM

this is a beach

this is the sadness of a beach

---

JAY

there is no poetry

the poetic is memory

memory is fallacy

it has no place in the cold

EM

and he lives in the cold

the pale greys and blues of ice

the emotion memory

frozen and ...

LYCIUS

her cries

LAMIA

her cries from the floor

she is pale and ill

crying

as the man enters the room  
her room

EM

she ushers him away  
she cries

JAY

her cries fill his dreams  
like her voice  
her forever voice  
forever  
and her voice in the girl  
that girl

OTHERS

who wore the blue dress  
wearing that blue dress  
that blue dress  
blue as in the sea

EM

ah the blue dress  
on the girl with the voice  
she sings

Hebe sings  
she sings  
hear her sing

JAY

you can't understand the boy  
if you don't hear her sing

OTHERS

she sings

JAY

he was warm in her song  
he remembers her song  
fell in love with the song  
the song  
the cloying taste of music  
his mother's song

EM

the girl's singing  
naïve singing

melody in emotional dirt  
emotional dirty thoughts  
of a girl in blue  
the singing blue  
cold memory blue  
death blue of tired eyes  
wide eyes answering the door  
after all those years

OTHERS

special person  
special but ...

EM

“I can’t love you  
you are so special  
but I can’t love you ...”  
can’t?

---

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the child of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the running of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the skin of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

LYCIUS

this is the young man of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

LYCIUS

this is the salt of a beach

LAMIA  
this is the fish of the beach

EM  
this is the shells of a beach

JAY  
this is the sting of a beach  
this is the voice of a beach  
this is a beach  
this is the scream of a beach

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LYCIUS  
(RUNNING FAST)  
the boy runs along the beach  
crying deep as his heart pounds  
his muscles tiring  
seriously ridiculous  
the ocean floods his tears  
giving salt to the sea  
filling the sand with oceans  
he screams  
the sky shakes and  
the child playing sand-castles  
looks up to see his own future  
running past him  
as the boy runs  
howling run

---

LAMIA  
now the song is dead  
the woman lies ill on the floor  
her hand gestures for the boy to leave  
and close the door

EM  
Hebe is still lamenting  
singing  
still singing  
forever singing  
though she has forgotten the effect of the song  
forgotten  
her children never knowing the effect of the song  
no one remembers the effect of the song

JAY  
except the boy running on the beach

who is older

LYCIUS

now he's older

JAY

not running much any more

---

the boy stops  
breathes heavily  
tries to breathe mid choking tears  
choking him but not killing him  
just choking  
he can't sing  
never could sing  
tried to sing  
but can't sing

EM

she sang  
but won't sing  
at least not the same  
the melody of love  
his love  
his deception  
foolish boy

LAMIA

sensible girl

EM

so sensible to see him  
see his foolish soul  
his own brand of narcissus  
weeping for his loss of beauty  
weeping for the boy on the beach  
who cried into the sand  
and wailed like a barking fish

LYCIUS

stupid boy  
he ran too far  
now has to walk back  
all the way back to the house  
her house by the beach  
where the ocean views her window  
where friends are waiting  
to drive him away



this is a beach

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OTHERS

this is the sun of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the sky of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the day of a beach

JAY

this is a beach

OTHERS

this is the birds of a beach  
this is the fight of a beach  
this is the weed of a beach  
this is the rock of a beach  
this is the essential of a beach  
this is the night of a beach  
this is a beach  
this is the song of a beach  
this is a beach

EM

this is the girl of a beach

---

JAY

they drive in silence  
the ocean roars in his head  
loudly it roars in the silence  
of no words

EM

no words but pity from the girl in blue  
singing Hebe's song

gilbert

JAY  
No sullivan

OTHERS  
no words but polite  
awkward notes from the girl in blue

LYCIUS  
the boy dies

OTHERS  
and dies again in silence

JAY  
dreams mistaken for goals

OTHERS  
of fantasy and ideals

JAY  
there is no poetry  
the poetic is memory  
memory is fallacy  
it has no place in the cold  
and he lives in the cold  
the pale greys and blues of ice  
the emotion memory  
frozen and ...  
this is a beach  
this is the life of a beach.

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## 2

There is a change of mood.

MUSIC for OPERATIC 1

LIGHTS UP on  
YOUNG EM

YOUNG EM  
(Singing)  
no one listens to my words

they're only hearing sounds  
like the chirping of the birds  
like memories in a cage  
an echo singing rounds  
the singer on a stage

Her voice continues to sear above the voice of EM.

EM is still sitting on her chair.

The sea is becoming more turbulent all around her. She is silently reading a letter.

---

JAY (VO)

Beautiful Em  
I am in such a privileged position ...  
something only an accumulated age  
can bring ...  
You see  
I knew you when you were a naive and  
soft young girl singing  
laughing  
the world being yours for the taking  
I knew you when you inspired young  
boys / men to  
be tongue-tied and breathless in your  
presence  
when my mother thought you were just  
the best  
when I first saw you  
you were but thirteen or fourteen  
singing in a Gilbert and Sullivan  
light opera  
the first time I ever spoke to you was  
a couple of years later  
on a tram in 1962  
you don't remember  
but I do  
you didn't know me then  
but I saw you  
I am so privileged that now I see you  
again  
you  
Em / Emma Akers  
our lives have travelled on very different  
tracks or paths

my privilege is that I can once again  
I can talk with you

see you