

Poem

Demon of the Deep

Out of the grey mist his dark form looms,
Out of the slate sea his sharp body rises,
Cutting the glass surface,
Gliding toward me.
The birds bolt crying
And all is still and waiting.
His burning eyes mesmerize.
Powerless I drift into the cold water
And mount his sleek black back.
He turns and slides away
Farther from the grey shore,
Farther from the sombre pines
Transfixed against a leaden sky.
Toward the emptiness of the dark abyss
we fly. Terrified I clutch his sharp fin
Fearful of falling, fearful of staying. On and
on into the frightening void we
fly-

The icy spray needles strike me numb. Suddenly
he dives
Down, down.
White whirls
Press against my chest,
My eyes, my nose,
Smothering me
Until the pain
Knives and wells
Within me.
I claw and scream
Unable to bear it.

Slowly I rise through the jade waters And wash
up on a golden shore. The emerald trees dance
and sway In a warm soothing breeze. He is
gone. I am free.

Florence Denison

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