

# Lights and Shadows

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## As My Aunt Lay Dying

Merlyn Jernigan

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Merlyn

The air in the room was heavy with the  
presence of the dead. The nurse's face  
was pale and her hands were cold.  
The doctor's eyes were fixed on the  
body. The family stood in a  
circle, their faces reflecting the  
light of the candles. The air was  
filled with the sound of sobs and  
whispers. The nurse moved to the  
side of the bed, her hands trembling  
as she touched the body. The doctor  
stepped forward, his face grimacing  
with pain. The family looked on  
in silence, their hearts heavy with  
grief. The nurse turned to the  
family, her eyes filled with tears.  
The doctor stepped back, his hands  
clenched in his pockets. The family  
looked at each other, their faces  
pale and their hearts heavy with  
grief. The nurse turned to the  
body, her hands trembling as she  
touched it. The doctor stepped  
forward, his face grimacing with  
pain. The family looked on in  
silence, their hearts heavy with  
grief.

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MERLYN JERNIGAN

AS MY AUNT LAY DYING

AS my aunt lay dying,  
I heard my uncle ask a Nurse  
If 'twas true  
That to pay a fortuneteller due  
Was to half your life with curse.

"No" she replied, sighing.  
But I saw her body slid into the hearse  
and 'twas true.  
Believe me, as I relate this to you.  
At twice twenty-two she answered the curse.