

MAGIC WITH BIZARRE POEMS

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A strange collection of poems entitled *Shadows in the Moonlight*, was written and privately printed in Los Angeles in 1927 by T. Page Wright, a Hollywood script writer. Wright was a skillful amateur magician who wrote the poems so that the book could be used for performing a feat of mental magic. Each of the 22 poems is so constructed that the nineteenth word is “rose” and the thirty-first word is “love.” The book originally sold in magic stores for five dollars, but is now extremely scarce. Considering the purpose for which the poems were written, they are surprisingly good. I particularly like this one:

AT A MELODRAMA

The leading lady suffered, while I yawned;
But a girl beside
Me sat and cried—
Her tears that rose unbidden washed away
The timeworn tawdriness that stained the play.
Love was theme -----the rest she looked beyond.

I constructed the following two poems for use in two magic prediction tricks in my Sterling book (1999) *Mental Magic*. In the first poem the *n*th word of every *n*th line is red. The second poem involves rolling a die. The number on top of the die indicates a line. The number on the bottom of the die counts the words in that line. Regardless of the outcome of each die toss, the word counted to is always blue.

In Praise of Red

*Red is the color of sunsets and fire,
And red is our blood when it flows.*

*A beautiful red are the lips of my love.
They rival the red of a rose.*

*We thrill to the red of a cardinal's wings,
But not to a sunburned red nose!*

In Praise of Blue

Barbara's eyes are a beautiful blue.

On a bluebell, a blue butterfly.

I seldom am blue in December.

Though frequently blue in July.

A blue cheese is tasty on salads.

Blue berries are great in a pie.

But the most wonderful blue of all

Is the blue of a cloudless sky.