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poems
by
doctors

Versions of a poem by Hesse

Adam Polnay

Night/night
scuttling
with nerves

Beside myself
you invite
the wind
into your hair

That's me, prowling
and chuntering
I don't even know
what I get out of this

I wouldn't have recognised you
those pretty pink knees
beneath your dancers' skirt
your tongue
circus lizard red

At night
I take to the streets
In the grip
of
invisible
scratches

I have really taken to them

Hermann Hesse (1877–1962) was a German-born Swiss writer. The poem that these versions take inspiration from is *Ich weiss, du gehst –*, which translates literally as 'I know, you walk', – from the collection *Poems*. Hesse is best known for his novels, including *Siddhartha* and *Steppenwolf*.

Dr Adam Polnay lives in Edinburgh. He has written several collections of poems, some short stories, and a short play. He is a speciality trainee in psychotherapy.

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