

## **A Review of “Inky Hour”**

I love this little poem. It is an excellent illustration of the way rhythm can work effectively in free verse.

The length of each of the first two lines emphasises the relentlessness of the rain through the night. At the same time the musicality of the rain’s strength within the blackness of the night is perfectly evoked by the phrase “a timpani of battery”. The musicality is emphasised by the “black notes”.

I like Jill’s personification of sleep when she writes “sleep turns over and wakes”. The second line ends cleverly on the word “wakes” transitioning to the rest of the poem which is characterised by shorter lines towards day eventually delivering “its beating heart.” The poem is replete with evocative imagery – “the early inky hour” describes that in-between time before the daybreak which is “awash with hazy dreams.” The word “awash” also echoes how wet the night has been. Yet once we are awake our dreams lose their clarity and are now “hazy” as the night ends.

The poem is bookended by day’s “beating heart” echoing, yet in contrast to, the drumbeat of the rainy night.

The poem is a wonderful example of the poet as artist, painting vivid word images.

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