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## ***Moon Marks***

Sue Nevill

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## Online Summer Seminar 2023

August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



### *Moon Marks*

#### **Additional Keywords**

Poetry; Moon Marks; Sue Nevill

# MOON MARKS

by Sue Nevill

turn in the night to face the window

you have not dreamt the light

this is the mark the moon  
full and burning  
makes on your sheets

mad moon

searing ice  
into the brains of those  
who sleep bareheaded

turn

women have died for skin this pale  
and men have killed for it  
strings of grave light  
pulling them down  
bowstrings of light  
singing

*I am the history of witches  
the first excuse  
for dance*

*open the window  
it is large enough  
to climb through  
kiss my ivory fingernail and swear  
you have forgotten gravity*

*drape yourself in my shocked silence  
deaf to everything except  
the quiet collisions  
of owls  
of hearts*

mad moon

freezing the slow maples

*open  
the window*

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## Editorial

Hello again, and welcome to *The Mythic Circle 19*. Another fine story issue, we believe; a brew of fantasy and folktale with a dash of surrealism. Our illustrators have done their usual splendid job (we are particularly fond of the comic crocodile motoring an unusual craft through *The Thunderslammers*), and Sarah Beach has given us an evocative glimpse of a mermaid for our cover. We are grateful to all our contributors, and we hope you enjoy what they have given us.

We hope, also, that you take the time to give us your Letters of Comment. As you will see, we didn't have many for this issue! As you read the magazine, jot down your comments and send them in. Our authors do appreciate them.

We are writing this in October, but as these things go, the magazine probably won't be in the mail before spring. So our best wishes to each of you for a happy Easter.

Tina Cooper and C.I.S. Lowentrout

## LETTERS OF COMMENT

Dear Editors--

*The Mythic Circle 17* has some really interesting material. I can't say I was entranced by most of the fiction, but Richard Goldstein's Islamic adventure tale "The Ruby" was well thought out. No sword-and-sorcery in the true sense here, but the flavor of occult mystery. There is in my mind a reminiscence of George Meredith's 19th Century story of The Shaving of Shagpat (remember the Ballantine 1969 Adult Fantasy Classics series of Lin Carter). And even a touch of William Beckford's 1787 hellish novel of *Vathek* (same series as above)! The feeling of 'labyrinth' is here; watch your step, one escape from a difficult situation can lead to disaster. *Kismet* is in the air, as befits the story's structure and Arabic atmosphere.

"Saucepan Tales by Cellar-Light" by MacGregor Card seems to follow next in complex structure. The Buddha-of-the-Bellman is intriguing enough, but requires a very slow leisurely reading, even re-reading, to get its "plot." Don't rush the tale and let your mind wander over its details. You