

Spring 5-1-2017

Dark Clouds

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Recommended Citation

Flinker, Kelsey (2017) "Dark Clouds," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 39 : No. 2 , Article 21.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol39/iss2/21>

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Looking Out Over Poseidon Avenue

The blackness beyond the long white bookstalls
stretched across the horizon
could be sky, could be water, could be earth.

Could be the end of the world,
the point where it all vanishes,
the place of final goodbyes.

This side teems with lights and noise.
The bleached demarcation line
holding back the wriggling, defiant seaurge,
denying the dark absence just beyond.

Is it the Buddha's nothingness, or that of Socrates? Sartre?
How many kinds of nothing will I yet have to stumble through?

Now the soldiers in white begin to draw their curtains,
adding to the nothingness.
More upon more nothing is building,
slyly, so no one else notices.

Martha Attiyeh



Dark Clouds
Ink by Kelsey Flinker