

On Broadway

Claude McKay

About me young and careless feet
 Linger along the garish street;
 Above, a hundred shouting signs
 Shed down their bright fantastic glow
 5 Upon the merry crowd and lines
 Of moving carriages below.
 Oh wonderful is Broadway—only
 My heart, my heart is lonely.

Desire naked, linked with Passion,
 10 Goes strutting by in brazen fashion;
 From playhouse, cabaret and inn
 The rainbow lights of Broadway blaze
 All gay without, all glad within;
 As in a dream I stand and gaze
 15 At Broadway, shining Broadway—only
 My heart, my heart is lonely.

Textual Note

This poem also appeared in *Spring in New Hampshire* (1920) and *Cambridge Magazine* (Summer, 1920).

6 .] : *Spr., Cam.*

7 Oh] O *Spr., Cam.*