

The Birthday Party

air through | her lungs.

a short, sharp **beat** on the centre.

the | choreography | underneath | began

one body | floats | across a sea | of sorrow.

drain from | the dark waters of | within,

down the passage the cranium pushes

Down the dark corridor | labyrinthine

cannot reach the light

narrow. | into a further **darkness**.

cries and silences, | against the wall.

high, | thin sounds | fluttering

tightening of the muscles

Wet face | presented | through bone.

frightened witnesses to **extremis**.

Distorted, | opening her

air. | **flutter**, | suffused by light.

first child | found heaven a little bright.