

Rain

by [Marjorie Stelmach](#) in the [June 15, 2022](#) issue

after William Edouard Scott's *Rainy Night, Étapes*

Why, on this night of shiver and hunch, are so many  
trudging these river-y streets of small cafés

and darkened shops, all of us hugging ourselves  
for warmth, watching our feet crush neon sheets

into tides that flood the pavement creating a strange  
museum of stained-glass scenes that break

like waves against grates and curbs, then re-cohere  
until it seems that, under the unrelenting pour,

we, too, might dissolve again and again and yet  
be redeemed by the steady spill that laves

our flesh and jewels our shoes—reminding us  
(we've always known) that we are the poor

who are always with us—though tonight we are  
ravishing, drenched in riches?