

Arsenic Dance

a midnight gown smoother than satin

little toxicant flowers, spinning in neat rows

Although it was known to be used as a
murder weapon, the cheap, natural
element was used in candles, curtains,
and wallpaper,

and light as the moon's touch in my hair

blowing poison kisses over flutes
of champagne

Because it dyed fabric bright green,
arsenic also ended up in dresses, gloves,
shoes, and artificial flower wreaths that
women used to decorate their hair and
clothes.

a lovely shade; it matches your eyes

and the satin edging your coffin

poison in the skirts, unhidden

Fashion at this time was riddled with
dangers. At the time, this wasn't a
peculiar way to die.

pushing my form into hard

spaces and desired proportions

bold and emerald as a warning

not taken

died a violent and colorful death. She
convulsed, vomited, and foamed at the
mouth. Her bile was green, and so were
her fingernails and the whites of her eye

my edges disappear, blend

with the fabric

as it breathes

deep against my skin

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