

## Let Me In

I staggered to my feet from where I begged my few shillings.  
Scrumpled up my paper bag in which I conceal my magic potion.  
Liquid gold in my world, rich for just one day.  
My treasure pressed close to my chest,  
guarding my genie in a bottle,  
like a mother with her child.

My eyes wide with joy and excitement.  
Desperate to drink  
I duck down a dark cold alley,  
where no human eyes can judge me.

Euphoria.  
I wipe my red stained lips  
with the sleeve of a very worn and tired coat.  
Smile at the bottle, my best friend.

Soon the night robbed the light of the sky.  
Where would I sleep?  
Where is safe?

The smell of urine burns my nose,  
complimenting the stench of my clothes.  
Mating cats call, make love to a brawl.  
I don't belong here.  
I don't belong at all.

Please let me in.  
Someone somewhere  
Please let me in.

By Nikki O'Donovan.