



One need not be a Chamber - to be Haunted -

One need not be a House -
The Brain has Corridors - surpassing
Material Place

Far safer, of a Midnight Meeting
External ghost
Than its interior Confronting
That Cooler Host.

Far safer, through an Abbey gallop
The Stones a'chase -
Than Unarmed, one's a'self encounter -
In lonesome Place -

Ourself behind ourself, concealed -
Should startle most -
Assassin hid in our apartment
Be Horror's least.

The Body - borrows a Revolver -
He bolts the Door -
O'erlooking a superior spectre -
Or More -

Emily Dickinson



The American poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) was a lively, witty and sociable young woman, but from her mid-twenties withdrew into an inner world, eventually refusing to leave her home, and avoiding all contact with strangers, although she maintained an intimate correspondence with people she never saw face to face.

She wrote poetry from early childhood, but only seven poems out of some 2,000 were published in her lifetime. Her contemporaries found her work bewildering, but eventually volumes of her verse began to appear after her death. At first regarded as an eccentric minor poet, she is now considered a major writer of startling originality.

She refers to herself as ‘the Queen of Calvary’, and her verse is full of allusions to volcanoes, shipwrecks, funerals, storms, imprisonments, and other manifestations of natural and human violence.

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul – and sings the tunes without the words – and never stops at all.”