

## Gasps

Joseph Rodgers

Sliced shafts of yellow light fall  
from the bathroom  
and shades of shadow play  
on the corridor's cream carpet.  
A dog falls asleep  
across their straight lines.

The tube glides along  
its bridge and outside  
its window sunlight  
glistens off car rooves  
and tower block exteriors.  
The tube storms into its tunnel.

An ultra-striped sunset  
wraps itself around  
the drooping utility wire  
on which an invisible  
spider's web also clings.  
Wind brushes the wire's gossamer.

The amber glow of the streetlamp  
beams through mist  
while birdsong sneaks through  
headphones between tunes,  
promising dawn. Shadow-puppets  
start their day behind curtains.

Joseph Rodgers is an emerging poet and writer from North London, with a master's degree in Modern & Contemporary Literature. His poems, essays and reviews have featured in such places as *Beyond Words Literary Magazine*, *Cake Magazine*, *Empty Mirror* and *UK Film Review*.