

**Phantasmagoria and Other Poems,**

**By**

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## **PHANTASMAGORIA**

### ***CANTO I--The Trysting***

One winter night, at half-past nine, Cold, tired, and cross, and muddy, I had  
come home, too late to dine, And supper, with cigars and wine, Was waiting  
in the study.

There was a strangeness in the room, And Something white and wavy Was  
standing near me in the gloom - I took it for the carpet-broom Left by that  
careless slavey.

But presently the Thing began To shiver and to sneeze: On which I said  
"Come, come, my man! That's a most inconsiderate plan. Less noise there, if  
you please!"

"I've caught a cold," the Thing replies, "Out there upon the landing." I turned  
to look in some surprise, And there, before my very eyes, A little Ghost was  
standing!

He trembled when he caught my eye, And got behind a chair. "How came  
you here," I said, "and why? I never saw a thing so shy. Come out! Don't  
shiver there!"

He said "I'd gladly tell you how, And also tell you why; But" (here he gave a  
little bow) "You're in so bad a temper now, You'd think it all a lie.

"And as to being in a fright, Allow me to remark That Ghosts have just as  
good a right In every way, to fear the light, As Men to fear the dark."

"No plea," said I, "can well excuse Such cowardice in you: For Ghosts can  
visit when they choose, Whereas we Humans ca'n't refuse To grant the  
interview."

He said "A flutter of alarm Is not unnatural, is it? I really feared you meant  
some harm: But, now I see that you are calm, Let me explain my visit.