

# THE BLUE HOUR

The Hourglass Collection  
Book 4

by

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First Published 2026  
by Owl-Raven Books

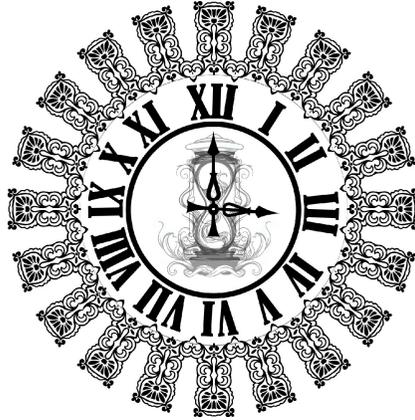
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Owl-Raven Books  
[owlravenbooks.com](http://owlravenbooks.com)

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 979-8-9929059-2-2



CHAPTER 1  
THE BEGGAR

## The Dancer

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I bend to pain's desires,  
kneeling at her altar  
while she serenades  
me with timeless hymns.  
My shadow awakens,  
dancing to an unknown  
rhythm, harmonizing  
with my soul's cries.  
I watch in fear  
as my pride crumbles.

## Deception

---

Deception sleeps in a garden  
of willows and daffodils  
while thorns from yesterday's  
rose bush pierce my skin.  
Lies bleed, flowing upon the soil,  
planting animosity - bitterness,  
still I attempt to harvest  
the disguise I crave.

## Decaying Flesh

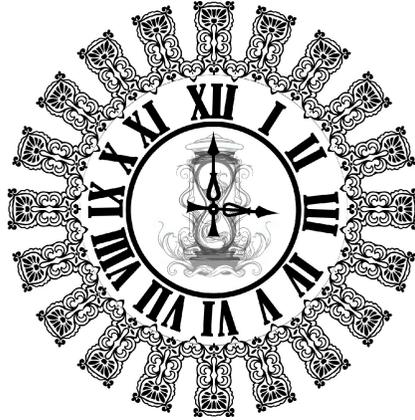
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My shadow builds  
an altar with my  
broken bones  
and drags my decaying  
flesh across the field.  
She points to the stones  
and wood, entreating me  
to rekindle the flame  
I snuffed out, but I no  
longer seek the reunification  
of my pieces, for the vision  
I held has passed.

## The Welcoming

---

Out of the black,  
it happened as I rolled  
over, two arms pulling  
me toward the divine.  
My soul shattered.  
Shards of glass slit open  
old wounds, unhealed  
trauma. My eyes open  
as the clock welcomes  
another shade of death.



CHAPTER 2  
THE WEAVER

## Brittle Bones

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Death's knife slices.  
My blood spills,  
hydrating brittle bones.  
My spine rejoices  
as bitterness runs  
over the sands of time,  
drowning the past.  
My closed eyes open -  
the right, the left,  
the one in the middle.  
I see the veil once again  
taunting me to embrace fate.

## Tossed

---

Thrown in the fire,  
I tossed my soul into agony's  
pit, begging for relief.  
Tears drowned any attempt  
at escape as I crawled  
along the ground, fighting  
life so death could erase  
my pain. Neither won.  
They tossed my soul  
into the river and laughed  
as my pride floated away.

## Wisdom's Silence

---

I questioned time  
as if I were entitled  
to an answer to all  
the bitterness lingering  
within man's pillar.  
She laughed at my plea,  
tore out my tongue  
and fed it back to me,  
hoping I'd choke on my  
pride's echo and embrace  
wisdom's silence.

## A New Dawn

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When the crow calls  
and the winds sing the song  
of the nightingale,  
then will the sun and moon  
dance below the blackened  
sky, rejoicing the coming  
of a new dawn.

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