

Underfoot

James Corbett

Papers wrapped in daily dream
of living other people's lives,
bigger, more, and stranger things,
perpetual sun, eternal youth,
wealth that only money brings,
end, abandoned, gutter-pressed.

Daily dream is underfoot
or, wrapped around a dream of food,
itself another substitute,
lasts the meal until it, too,
accumulates among the ghosts:
dunnock, weasel, ramson, pine.

Dreamer, scorned by jostling dreamer,
sweeps the haunted thoroughfare
free of creature, herb and pulp,
free for more what-might-have-been,
free for insubstantial things:
papers wrapped in daily dream.