

JAY HOPLER

The Howling of the Gods

It was so loud it was so quiet we didn't sleep we slept.
We didn't dream. We dreamt of panthers and hatpins, orchids
and ashbins.

There was no moon; no moon was there
Ever so magnificent. Even the dogs were mesmerized.
Make that: *the gods*—even *the gods* were mesmerized.

There were no dogs; no dogs were there.

Even so, sleep was impossible—

All that howling! We dreamt of panthers and hatpins, orchids
and ashbins,

Didn't we? No; and if we did,

We weren't dreaming.