

There ... strange things midnight ...
... ..
... Arctic trails their secret tales
... would blood ... cold;
... Northern Lights queer sights,
... .. queerest
... .. night marge Lebarge . cremated ... McGee.

... .. McGee Tennessee, where ... cotton blooms ... blows.
... .. South 'round ... Pole, knows.
... .. always cold, seemed spell;
Though often homely "he'd sooner hell."

... .. Christmas mushing Dawson trail.
... .. cold! through ... parka's stabbed driven nail.
... .. close, lashes froze ... sometimes .. couldn't
... wasn't whimper McGee.

... .. night, packed tight robes beneath ... snow,
... .. stars o'erhead dancing
... .. "Cap," "I'll trip, . guess;
... .. asking won't refuse request."

Well, .. seemed couldn't moan:
"It's ... cursed cold, right chilled clean through bone.
... 'taint being awful dread grave pains;
... .. swear that, fair, you'll cremate remains."

. pal's thing .. heed, .. swore . would ... fail;
... .. started streak .. dawn; looked ghastly pale.
.. crouched sleigh, raved Tennessee;
... before nightfall . corpse McGee.

There wasn't . breath death, hurried, horror-driven,
... .. corpse couldn't because .. . promise given;
... .. lashed sleigh, seemed brawn ... brains,
... .. promised true, cremate those remains."

... .. promise unpaid, trail stern code.
... .. come, though dumb, heart cursed ... load.
... .. long, night, light, while ... huskies, round .. . ring,
Howled ... their homeless snows loathed thing.

... .. every quiet seemed .. heavy ... heavier grow;
... .. went, though spent getting
... .. trail swore . would
... .. often hateful thing, hearkened grin.

... .. marge Labarge, derelict there
... .. jammed trice called ... "Alice May."
... .. looked thought looked frozen chum;
... .. "Here," sudden crema-tor-eum."

... .. planks cabin floor, boiler fire;
... .. found lying around, ... heaped higher;
... .. flames soared, furnace roared blaze ... seldom
... .. burrowed glowing coal, stuffed McGee.

... .. hike, didn't sizzle ...
... .. heavens scowled, huskies howled, began .. blow.
... .. cold, sweat rolled cheeks, don't
... .. greasy smoke cloak streaking

... .. wrestled grisly fear;
... .. stars danced about ... again . ventured near;
... .. dread, bravely said: "I'll inside.
. guess cooked, looked;" opened wide.

... .. there looking calm, heart furnace roar;
... .. smile ... could mile, said: "Please close ... door.
... .. here, greatly you'll storm ..
Since Plumtree, Tennessee, first warm."

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