Jack Frost's Wake

by Michael Swanwick
Jack
Frost
Dances
Herbly
through the TREES
green leaves turning
orange.
All the World
is his canvas.
Not only is it SEPT. NIZ.
LOVE AND MR.

{Image of yellow leaves with handwritten words: Not only is it SEPT. NIZ.}
but. he’s an
25 well.
In his wake...
PLANTS

DIE
insects

DIE,
MAMMALS

DIE.
Occasionally,
people too.
This is 6/15.
when
the
nights
AND THE WINDOW
frost
But Jack has his
Sometimes he writes
words
perhaps,

OR
He’ll take
AND

LARES
AND THE OTHER
People
his

handiwork
SCATTERED
the

wind
he'll

write
an entire story
PASSING

THROUGH
a graveyard
You up the snatch.
then the second.
It might be
ghost

story
LIKE

THIS

ONE.
OR

IT

MIGHT.
were we going to ghouls.
AND
GHOSTLIES
OTHER
To toast the memory
OF

SOME
Oh, things get
AMD

DRUNK
and Whiskey
own

CELLARS.
They / Dance
They perform
DREADFUL
A good time
is had
By all.
Scurrying after
Jack
Frost's
COAT TAILS
grab EACH LEAF
As it falls,
READING

AVIDLY.
AVI

only

WEL
reach
the FINAL
PARAGRAPH
AND,

INDEED.
SENTENCE
THAT

YOU
Realize
YOU.