

Dr. Matthew O'Connor

Character Analysis

“I’ve done and been everything that I didn’t want to be or do—Lord, put the light out—so I stand here, beaten up and mauled and weeping, knowing I am not what I thought I was, a good man doing wrong, but the wrong man doing nothing much, and I wouldn’t been telling you about it if I weren’t talking to myself. I talk too much because I have been made so miserable by what you are keeping hushed.”

- Dr. Matthew O’Connor

# Nightwood

Djuna Barnes

# Dr. Matthew O'Connor: Character Description

- Place of Origin
  - The man was Dr. Matthew O'Connor, an Irishman from the Barbary Coast (Pacific Street, San Francisco)...”(17)
- Living Area
  - “Close to the church of St. Sulpice, around the corner in the *rue Servandoni*, lived the doctor”(32)
- Interest in Gynecology
  - “...whose interest in gynaecology had driven him half around the world” (17)

# Dr. Matthew O'Connor: Identity

## Transgender

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Cross-dresser

Find women's clothes in Doctor's room

Expresses repressed desires to be a woman

## Quotes

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- "... framed in the golden semi-circle of a wig with long pendent curls that touched his shoulders" (85)

"...some twenty perfume bottles, almost empty, pomades, creams, rouges, powder boxes and puffs" (85)

"I talk too much because I have been made so miserable by what you are keeping hushed."