

Gisle Kverndokk

"O comfort-killing Night"

Concert aria for mezzo soprano, basset horn, string quartet and harpsichord

based on "The rape of Lucretia" by William Shakespeare

Commissioned by Ebba Rydh, with support from Det Norske Komponistfond

2009 / 2010

# "O comfort - killing Night"

Concert aria based on "The Rape of Lucretia" by William Shakespeare

Gisle Kverndokk

*Andante espressivo* ♩ = 80

for mezzosoprano, basset horn, string quartet and harpsichord

2009 - 2010

Mezzo-Soprano *p*  
O com - fort - kil - ling Night.

Basset Horn *pp*

Violin I *mf > pp*

Violin II *mf > pp*

Viola *mf > pp*

Cello *mf > pp*

Harpsichord

The image shows a musical score for a concert aria. It features seven staves: Mezzo-Soprano, Basset Horn, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Harpsichord. The Mezzo-Soprano part has the lyrics "O com - fort - kil - ling Night." and starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Basset Horn part begins with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello) parts feature a dynamic shift from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to pianissimo (*pp*) across four measures. The Harpsichord part is currently blank. A large watermark "NB noter" and "this music is copyright protected" is overlaid on the score.

Mezzo

B. Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

Vln. I *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vln. II *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*

Hpschd. *p* *arpeggio simile*

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"O comfort - killing Night"

16 *p*

Mezzo

O com - fort - kil - ling Night.

B. Hn.

*pp* *p*

8

Vln. I

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp*

Vln. II

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp*

Vla.

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp*

Vc.

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp*

Hpschd.

*p*

This musical score page includes a Mezzo voice line with lyrics, a Bass Horn line, and string parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. A Harpsichord part is also present. Dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo) are used throughout. A watermark for 'IMB notefirst' is visible across the score.

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

24

*mf* *f* *ppp*

*f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp* *pizz.* *pp* *pizz.* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

*f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

*f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

*mf* *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

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"O comfort - killing Night"

Mezzo

31 *mf* *p* *mp* 3

O com - fort - kil - ling Night, i - mage of hell, Dim re - gis - ter

B. Hn.

31 *pp* *mp*

Vln. I

31 *arco* *mp* *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vln. II

31 *arco* *mp* *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

Vla.

31 *arco* *mp* *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pizz.*

Vc.

31 *arco* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Hpschd.

31 *mf* *arpeggio simile* *p*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with seven staves. The top staff is for the Mezzo voice, with lyrics underneath. The second staff is for the Bass Horn (B. Hn.). The next three staves are for the string section: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), and Viola (Vla.). The fifth staff is for the Violoncello (Vc.). The bottom staff is for the Harpsichord (Hpschd.). The score includes various dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*, as well as performance instructions like *arco*, *pizz.*, and *arpeggio simile*. A large watermark "NB noter" is overlaid on the score, along with the text "This music is copyright protected".

"O comfort - killing Night"

Mezzo  
— and no - ta - ry of shame, Black stage for tra - ge - dies and mur - ders

B. Hn.  
*p*

Vln. I  
*pizz.*  
*mf* *f* *p*

Vln. II  
*pizz.*  
*mf* *f* *p*

Vla.  
*mf* *f* *p*

Vc.  
*mf* *f* *p*

Hpschd.  
*mf* *p*

38 4 *f* 3 *mp*

3

IB notey  
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"O comfort - killing Night"

Mezzo  
fell, \_\_\_\_\_ Vast sin - con - cea - ling cha - - - os, nurse \_\_\_\_\_ of blame, \_\_\_\_\_ Blind \_\_\_\_\_

B. Hn.  
*pp* *fp* *f*

Vln. I  
*arco pp* *pizz. f* *arco p* *f* *p*

Vln. II  
*arco pp* *pizz. f* *arco p* *f* *p*

Vla.  
*arco pp* *pizz. f* *arco p* *f* *p*

Vc.  
*arco pp* *pizz. f* *arco p* *f* *p*

Hpschd.  
*f p* *f* *p*

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"O comfort - killing Night"

Mezzo

50 *mp* *f* *mp*

muff-led bawd, dark har - bour for de - fame! Grim cave of death, whisp'ring con-spi - ra - tor

B. Hn.

50 *p* *f*

Vln. I

50 *f* *pizz.* *sub. p*

Vln. II

50 *f* *pizz.* *sub. p*

Vla.

50 *f* *pizz.* *sub. p*

Vc.

50 *f* *pizz.* *sub. p*

Hpschd.

50 *f* *f* *p*

This musical score is for the piece "O comfort - killing Night" on page 9. It features a vocal line for Mezzo and an instrumental ensemble consisting of B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The score begins at measure 50. The vocal line has lyrics: "muff-led bawd, dark har - bour for de - fame! Grim cave of death, whisp'ring con-spi - ra - tor". Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, and *mp* for the voice, and *p*, *f*, *pizz.*, and *sub. p* for the instruments. The Hpschd. part has dynamics *f*, *f*, and *p*. A large watermark "NB Music is copyright protected" is visible across the score.

"O comfort - killing Night"

56 *f* With \_\_\_\_\_ close - - - tongued\_ trea - son \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the ra - vish - er! \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* O hate - ful, va - po - rous, and fog - gy Night, \_\_\_\_\_ Since

B. Hn.

Vln. I *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *arco* *f* *fp* *f*

Vln. II *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *arco* *f* *fp* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *arco* *f* *fp* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *arco* *f* *fp* *f*

Hpschd. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The page is numbered 10 in the top right corner. The score is for a Mezzo-soprano, Bass Horn (B. Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Harpsichord (Hpschd.). The Mezzo-soprano part has lyrics: "With \_\_\_\_\_ close - - - tongued\_ trea - son \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the ra - vish - er! \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* O hate - ful, va - po - rous, and fog - gy Night, \_\_\_\_\_ Since". The instrumental parts include dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *arco*, *fp*, and *f*. A large watermark "NB notefinder" is overlaid on the score, with the text "this music is copyright protected" written diagonally across it.

63 Mezzo *mf*  
thou art guilty of my cure-less crime, Mus - ter thy mists to meet the eas - tern light,

63 B. Hn.

63 Vln. I *ff* *pp*

63 Vln. II *ff* *pp*

63 Vla. *ff* *pp*

63 Vc. *ff* *pp*

63 Hpschd. *ff* *mf* *pp*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with a vocal line and various instrumental parts. The vocal line is for Mezzo and includes the lyrics: "thou art guilty of my cure-less crime, Mus - ter thy mists to meet the eas - tern light,". The instrumental parts include B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The score is marked with dynamic levels such as *mf*, *ff*, and *pp*. A large watermark "INB noter" is overlaid on the score, along with the text "This music is copyright protected".

69

Mezzo

Make war \_\_\_\_\_ a - gainst pro - por - tioned \_\_\_\_\_ course \_\_\_\_\_ of time; \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

B. Hn.

*p* *mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*niente*

*niente*

*niente*

*niente*

Hpschd.

74

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

*pizz.*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*pp*

7

8

3

3

3



*poco rubato, colla voce*

85 *mp*

Mezzo

Or if thou wilt per-mit the sun to climb, His won-ted height, yet ere he go to bed, Knit poi-so-nous clouds a-bout his gol-den head.

B. Hn.

85

Vln. I

*pp*

*pp*

Vln. II

*pp*

Vla.

*pp*

Vc.

*pp*

Hpschd.

*p*

*f*

*gliss. ad lib.*

*Gliss.*

*Glissando*

*sul pont.*

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The vocal line (Mezzo) is at the top, with lyrics underneath. The instrumental parts include B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *pp*, and *f*, and performance instructions like *poco rubato, colla voce*, *gliss. ad lib.*, and *sul pont.*. A large watermark 'MNB noter' is overlaid on the score, along with the text 'this music is copyright protected'.

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

92

Gliss. Gliss.

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

poco rubato

p

f

p

MB noter

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*Allegro con fuoco* ♩ = 112

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The score is for a full orchestra and harpsichord. The tempo is marked "Allegro con fuoco" with a metronome marking of ♩ = 112. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 97, 98, 99, and 100 indicated at the beginning of each staff. The instruments are: Mezzo (Mezzosoprano), B. Hn. (Bass Horn), Vln. I (Violin I), Vln. II (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), Vc. (Violoncello), and Hpschd. (Harpsichord). The Mezzo part is mostly silent, with rests in measures 97-100. The B. Hn. part has a melodic line starting in measure 98, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The Vln. I and Vln. II parts have rhythmic patterns, with Vln. I marked f and Vln. II marked f. The Vla. and Vc. parts have rhythmic patterns, with Vla. marked f and Vc. marked f. The Hpschd. part has a complex rhythmic pattern, marked with an accelerando (accel.) and a forte (f) dynamic. There are also markings for pizz. (pizzicato) in the Vla. and Vc. parts in measure 100. A large watermark "NB noter" is overlaid on the score, with the text "this music is copyright protected" written diagonally across it.

101

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

*arco*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*p*

*tr<sup>#</sup>*

107 *mf*  
Mezzo

107 *f*  
B. Hn.

107 *f* *arco* *fp* *f* *sul pont.* *pp*  
Vln. I

107 *f* *arco* *fp* *f* *sul pont.* *pp*  
Vln. II

107 *f* *arco* *fp* *f* *sul pont.* *pp*  
Vla.

107 *f* *arco* *fp* *f* *sul pont.* *pp*  
Vc.

107 *mf*  
Hpschd.

With



*f*  
115 *Glissando*

ra - vish the mor-ning air;

B. Hn. 115 *p* *f*

Vln. I 115 *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II 115 *f* *p* *f*

Vla. 115 *f* *p* *f*

Vc. 115 *f* *p* *f*

Hpschd. 115 *f* *p* *f* *pp* *b#*

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Mezzo  
119 *p* Let their ex - - - haled *mf* un - - whole - some

B. Hn.  
119 *pp* *p* *Glissando*

Vln. I  
119 *sul pont.* *pp* *Glissando* *ord.*

Vln. II  
119 *sul pont.* *pp* *Glissando* *ord.*

Vla.  
119 *sul pont.* *pp* *Glissando* *ord.*

Vc.  
119 *pp* *sul pont.* *pp* *Glissando* *ord.*

Hpschd.  
119 *pp*

*This music is copyright protected*

Mezzo

123 *f* *p* *mf*

breaths make sick, The life of pu - ri - ty, the su - preme fair,

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

*mp* *f* *pp*

This musical score page includes a large, semi-transparent watermark that reads "IMB noter" and "This music is copyright protected" diagonally across the center of the page.

"O comfort - killing Night"

129 *p*

Mezzo

fair, fair, ai ai ai fair fair ai air

*mf*

*p*

B. Hn.

129

Vln. I

*pizz.*

Vln. II

*pizz.*

Vla.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

*pizz.*

Vc.

*pizz.*

Hpschd.

129



135 *f* *mf* *f* *f*

Mezzo  
the su - preme fair ai ai ai fair the su - preme fair,

B. Hn.

Vln. I *f* *arco* *mp* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *arco* *mp* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *mp* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* *p*

Hpschd. *f* *p* *f* *p*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The page is numbered 25. The score is for a Mezzo-soprano and a full orchestra. The Mezzo part has lyrics: "the su - preme fair ai ai ai fair the su - preme fair,". The orchestral parts include B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The score is marked with dynamics such as *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also markings for *arco* and *mp arco*. The score is divided into measures, with a large watermark "IMB noter" and "this music is copyright protected" overlaid on the page.

141

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

This musical score page, numbered 26, is titled "O comfort - killing Night". It begins at measure 141. The instrumentation includes a Mezzo-soprano, Bass Horn (B. Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Harpsichord (Hpschd.). The string parts (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with some measures marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The harpsichord part consists of chords and single notes, also marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A large watermark "IMB noter" is overlaid on the score, with the text "this music is copyright protected" written diagonally across it.



This musical score page, numbered 28, is titled "O comfort - killing Night". It features a multi-staff arrangement for the following instruments: Mezzo (Mezzo-soprano), B. Hn. (Bass Horn), Vln. I (Violin I), Vln. II (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), Vc. (Violoncello), and Hpschd. (Harp). The score begins at measure 148. The Mezzo part consists of whole rests. The B. Hn. part features a melodic line with long slurs and some chromaticism. The string parts (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc.) play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, with some parts including accents and dynamic markings. The Harp part (Hpschd.) plays a complex, arpeggiated accompaniment with many slurs and dynamic markings. A large watermark "NBPotek" is overlaid on the score, with the text "This music is copyright protected" written in red across it.

152 *f* *p* *ritenuto* *a tempo*

Mezzo  
With rot - ten damps ra - vish the mor - ning air, ra - vish the mor - - - - ning air.

B. Hn. *p* *p*

Vln. I *sul pont.* *pp* 6 6 6 6 6 6

Vln. II *sul pont.* *pp* 6 6 6 6 6 6

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

158 *mp*

Mezzo With rot - - - ten damps ra - - - vish the mor - ning air;

B. Hn. *p*

Vln. I *ord.* *fp* *f* *pp* *sul pont.*

Vln. II *ord.* *fp* *f* *pp* *sul pont.*

Vla. *fp* *f* *pp* *sul pont.*

Vc. *arco* *fp* *f* *pp* *sul pont.*

Hpschd. *f* *p* *pp*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The score is for a full orchestra and a mezzo-soprano. The page number is 30. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The mezzo-soprano part has lyrics: "With rotten damps ravish the morning air;". The orchestral parts include strings (Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello), woodwinds (Bassoon), and keyboard (Harpichord). The score features various dynamics such as *mp*, *p*, *fp*, *f*, *pp*, and *arco*. There are also performance instructions like *ord.* and *sul pont.*. The score includes triplets and sixteenth-note patterns. A large watermark "NB: Music is copyright protected" is overlaid on the score.

"O comfort - killing Night"

Mezzo

162 *mf* *f* *f* *p*

With rot - ten damps ra-vish the mor-ning air air

B. Hn.

162 *p*

Vln. I

162 *ord.* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

Vln. II

162 *ord.* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

Vla.

162 *ord.* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

Vc.

162 *ord.* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

Hpschd.

162 *f* *p*

Mezzo: *f* 167 *mp* *mf*  
Let their ex - haled, Let their ex - haled un - whole - some

B. Hn. *mf* *pp* *p* 5 6 *Ass.*

Vln. I *mf* *sul pont.* *pp* 6 *sul pont.* 7 *Glissando* *ord.* 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vln. II *mf* *pp* *sul pont.* 5 *Glissando* *ord.* 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vla. *mf* *pp* *sul pont.* 5 *Glissando* *ord.* 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vc. *mf* *pp* *sul pont.* *ord.* 3 3 3 3 3 3

Hpschd. *f* 3 6 6 6 *pp* *p*

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Mezzo

breaths\_\_\_\_\_ make sick, The life\_\_\_\_\_ of pu - ri - ty,\_\_\_\_\_ the su - preme\_\_\_\_\_ fair, Ere he arr-

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

This musical score page includes a vocal line for Mezzo and instrumental parts for B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The vocal line contains lyrics: "breaths\_\_\_\_\_ make sick, The life\_\_\_\_\_ of pu - ri - ty,\_\_\_\_\_ the su - preme\_\_\_\_\_ fair, Ere he arr-". The instrumental parts feature various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *pp*, along with articulation marks like accents and slurs. The score is marked with measure numbers 172 and includes a large watermark reading "MIDI noter" and "this music is copyright protected".

179

Mezzo  
ive \_\_\_\_\_ his wea - ry noon - tide prick;

B. Hn.  
*p* *mf*

Vln. I  
*pizz.*  
*p*

Vln. II

Vla.  
*p*

Vc.  
*pizz.*  
*p*

Hpschd.  
*p*

186 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *arco* *trb* *p* *mp*

Mezzo  
And let thy mus-ty va-pors and let thy mus-ty va - pors march so thick, so

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

The image shows a page of a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". The score is for a full orchestra and a mezzo-soprano. It consists of seven staves: Mezzo, B. Hn., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. The Mezzo staff has lyrics: "And let thy mus-ty va-pors and let thy mus-ty va - pors march so thick, so". The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mp, mf, p), articulation (arco), and performance instructions (trb). There is a large watermark in the center of the page that reads "IMB noter This music is copyright protected".





This musical score page, numbered 38, is for the piece "O comfort - killing Night". It features seven staves of music. The Mezzo staff is mostly empty, with a few notes at the beginning. The B. Hn. staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a long note. The Vln. I and Vln. II staves play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Vla. staff plays a similar pattern in the bass clef. The Vc. staff plays a pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef. The Hpschd. (Harp) part consists of two staves, both playing a pattern of eighth notes with sixteenth-note grace notes, marked with a '6' above the notes. A watermark "IMB noter" and "this music's copyright protected" is visible across the center of the page.

*ritenuto* **Cadenza - molto rubato**

Mezzo

B. Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*p*

*pp*

*mf*

3

3

3

6

NB noter

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217 *p* *p*

Mezzo

That in their smoky ranks his smoth' - red light,

B. Hn.

*f* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *p* *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Hpschd.

Detailed description of the musical score: The page contains a musical score for the piece "O comfort - killing Night", page 40. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line consists of two parts: Mezzo and B. Hn. (Bass Horn). The Mezzo part has lyrics: "That in their smoky ranks his smoth' - red light,". The B. Hn. part has lyrics: "his smoth' - red light,". The piano accompaniment includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Hpschd. (Harp). The score is marked with various dynamics: *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *pp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). There are also articulation marks such as accents and slurs. A watermark "NB noter" is overlaid on the string staves, along with the text "This music is copyright protected".



*Andante espressivo*

Mezzo <sup>224</sup> *p*

That in their smo - ky ranks his smoth' - red light, May set at noon and make per-

B. Hn. <sup>224</sup> *poco rit.* *p* *pp*

Vln. I <sup>224</sup>

Vln. II <sup>224</sup>

Vla. <sup>224</sup>

Vc. <sup>224</sup> *pp*

Hpschd. <sup>224</sup> *p*



245 *p*

Mezzo  
and make and make per - pe - tu - al night.

B. Hn.

245

Vln. I *sul pont.*

Vln. II *pp sul pont.*

Vla. *pp sul pont.*

Vc. *pp sul pont.*

Hpschd. *pp*

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