

Night of the Scorpion Key Facts

Writer: Nissim Ezekiel | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Full Title: Night of the Scorpion.

Author: Nissim Ezekiel.

Life Duration: 1924 to 2004..

Written Date: Around the late 1950s.

Published Date: First published in 1965.

First Collected In: The Exact Name (1965).

Publisher: Various Indian and international poetry anthologies.

Genre: Narrative poem and social commentary.

Form: Free verse poem with storytelling tone.

Rhyme Scheme: No fixed rhyme; natural speech pattern and simple rhythm.

Total Lines: 47 lines.

Total Stanza: Written as one continuous stanza.

Meter: Free and flexible; follows natural conversation and observation.

Tone: Tense, emotional, sympathetic, and reflective.

Point of View: First-person (poet as a child remembering the event).

Climax: The mother suffers for many hours, and the poet watches the clash between superstition and science.

Resolution: After twenty hours the pain ends, and the mother expresses gratitude that her children were spared.

Summary in One Line: The poem describes the night the poet's mother was stung by a scorpion and shows the contrast between rural superstition and rational thinking.

Famous Line: “Thank God the scorpion picked on me and spared my children.”

Setting — Time: A rainy night in a rural Indian village

Setting — Place: A small mud house where neighbours crowd in to help

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