

A Wagner Lesson

I want to explain how the chord called A Major becomes
One called F Minor. It's the sort of shape-shift old
Klingsor worked with dark delight. How it is done:
A falls flat; the bright sharp of C is lost;
And E, drawn up by force of fate, becomes
An F. There is a kind of horror to the change,
How that simple girl in sharp bikini turns, ah, withered crone ---
Whether the A's below or above, the chord upright or
Floating on its side, the terrible sorcery still works its will;
And we who hear it know that darkness, and its thrill.