‘I comb its hair and love its shining eyes’ – The Emigrée line analysis

* The city is personified as someone very close to the speaker; a lover perhaps, or a child.
* The word ‘shining’ links this phrase to the theme of light that runs through the poem.
* The line suggests the speaker spends a lot of time adoring the city and trying to improve its appearance. There’s a sense in which she lavishes attention on her memory of the city.
* The effect on the reader is to see the speaker as emotionally dependent upon the city. Recalling the place has become a kind of homesick compulsion