

Behind the Poems of Like a Box of Chocolates:

Here is a behind the scenes look at how some of the poems in the book came to be. However, it is worth noting that people voted on titles and many that are in the book are the ones that won. There were times I myself didn't know what the poem would be about until I started writing it but there was still thought behind them.

Shattered Dreams: Sure it's the finisher and theme for wrestler Goldust and a song by Johnny Hates Jazz but neither were inspiration for this poem that is ironically about..inspiration. For this poem I thought of a person down but not out in whatever situation one could think of only to have a shift halfway through the poem with the ending result being...shattered dreams.

Razorblades and Revolutions: I consider this to be one of the best poems I've ever written due to it's deep inner linings and hidden meaning. I forgot where I came up with the title but when I put it out to be voted on it one by a landslide. The poem itself alludes to suicide as a good thing or a goal to be achieved in the hopes of fulfillment and that it is better than whatever situation the person currently finds themselves in. Like I said the meaning is deep.

Upon the Strike of Midnight: Inspired by "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe, the poem is based off it only told in a uniquely different way. The rhyme scheme is 1-2-1-2 and tick and tock are repetitive words within the rhymes making for a unique style. I wanted to write my own version of The Raven and I wanted it to be different and for whatever reason my brain chose the style its in and the way its told, creating a very odd but interesting version of the Poe classic.

Mongolian Bone Torture: Have you ever come up with a fictitious conspiracy theory or method of torture? I'm guessing the answer to that is no and I only wish I could say the same but as an author I tend to come up with strange ideas and this poem was certainly one of them. The title was a random thought that came to me one day but unlike other poems in the book I couldn't cloak the meaning to it and had to write it exactly what the title says it is. I imagined medieval times and some strange ritual that a tribe would do if they came across a traveler and the end result is this poem. I know, I'm a weird guy but the poem is unique.

Brutal Mentality: This poem was inspired by the many people I've come across in my life that have either wronged me, broken my heart without a care or kicked me when I was down. It's a poem for anyone whose ever been mistreated and looked down upon as the foe so to speak. It was written with personal experience and hope in the back of my mind that maybe someday the people that wronged me would apologize of rather anyone whose ever been victimized would apologize to those they've hurt or at the very least come to their senses.

The Strawberry Room: I don't do drugs but many people have asked if I was when writing some of my poems and this is one of them. The poem gives of feels of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and Alice in Wonderland and is odd but seems like a happy and trippy poem. Aside from the two story inspirations I don't know where else I could have seen myself taking a poem called The Strawberry Room aside from writing about a room full of strawberries. I went with the more far out approach and beyond to write a poem that likely leaves many scratching their heads and asking, are you sure your not on drugs?

Corroded Filth: I wanted to write a poem about a bad place but in the end it ended up being more of the personification of what a bad place can be real or metaphorical. It reminds me of Brutal Mentality but rather than talking about people I replaced them with society being in a dark place. The metaphors and rhyme scheme really bring out the poem in my opinion.

Velvet Awakening: I always remember wanting to take this poem in three different directions and I think rather than settling on one I wrote about all three and left it up to the reader as to what the poem is about. At first it reads like a poem about someone who is depressed or hurt and can't get out of bed, second I think it could read as a metaphor for infidelity, and finally it could be a poem about someone who wants to make the most of their day but their insomnia that they refer to as "velvet awakening" keeps them from it. Those are just my ideas after I wrote it but you may have an entirely different interpretation and that's fine, that's what I want you to do.

The Mosaic: From the moment this title was chosen I knew what I was going to write about. I imagined a museum that has pictures and portraits up all over. In the corner of the museum is one of those pictures that seem normal but hide a deeper meaning or are open for interpretation only I took the hide a deeper meaning literally. I imagined a person on the other side of the picture from the inside of it trapped and unable to get out and the person viewing the picture cannot see or hear them. It was creepy and I liked it and I knew there was no going back on the idea.

The Clinic: Like most people I still have my favorite beloved stuffed animal from when I was a kid. He's my dearest friend and he's named Teddy. As you may have guessed, Teddy has seen better days. When I was a teenager my mom took me to a place that I thought would fix him up but in reality it was a place where you could play pretend and tend to the wound of your stuffed animal by bandaging up and covering your bear with bandages, tissue and even slings. I wasn't happy and I certainly didn't want my bear to look worse but I played along and bandaged Teddy up. A week or two later and all his bandages were off as I got tired of looking at him like that. Why do I tell you this? Because it is what partly inspired this poem only I added a soldier and war theme to throw you off.