

## **Behind the Poems of The Macabre Masterpiece: Repressed Carnage**

**Orange Village:** The poem is inspired by the film “The Village” by M. Night Shyamalan, the Salem Witch Trials and urban legends of small towns that claim some people are possessed or worship the devil. It tells of an old town that painted or smeared their doors orange acting as a red flag so that monsters would not attack them. However, the reality of the poem is that the only monsters are themselves and they attack and accuse each other one by one until they go raving mad.

**Blood and Gold:** The poem mentions three professions that hunt for gold; miners, pirates and tomb raiders. The poem reveals that not only do they have this goal in mind but also the end result in trying to achieve it, shedding blood and dying. I thought of this poem after realizing that they all shared wanting to find gold and I took their most likely result in not getting it by making it horrific.

**The Gallows:** A western poem about a hanged outlaw who gets revenge on the whole town beyond the grave. The inspiration for this came from watching a lot of westerns and reading stories about outlaws who were hanged. I didn’t just want it to rhyme but I wanted the last line to always be the same to put emphasis on the outlaw dying upon the gallows. The rhyme scheme and some lines tend to run and don’t have a rhythm but the tale is quite interesting.

### **The Gravediggers Garden & The Gravedigger’s Gambit:**

The two part poem tells of a mysterious gravedigger that has an unusual way of digging and tending to graves. It also involves magic, necromancy, and of course the undead. The poems sort of takes slight inspiration from Sam Elliot’s portrayal of Carter Slade in Ghost Rider only the gravedigger in mine longs to be dead like those he resurrects. I thought it would be interesting to tell a unique tale about a creepy and lonely gravedigger who longs to be the very thing he does for a living...pun intended.

**Hatter Splatter:** The poem title is a play on words and a reference to Helter Skelter and is about The Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland going deeper into madness as he tries to recall murdering everyone. Alice in Wonderland is quite popular and seems to be a go to inspiration for me so perhaps that’s why I chose it. As for making making it into a horror poem well that’s kind of what I do and I took the one thing about it that was the closest to being horror already, the Mad Hatter who is a bit eccentric and off the wall. The interesting thing about this poem is that there is no rhyme scheme but there is a repetitiveness on certain words that rhyme with hatter and splatter. Also, many lines in the poem have far deeper meanings than the words that are written on the page. If you know about Alice in Wonderland, and the history of top hats(the hat that the mad hatter wears) then you may have a better chance at making sense of this crazy poem.

**Mr. Morbid:** Mr. Morbid is the personification of the black plague and it is told in a whimsical jolly way to try to throw off the reader. When I wrote this I pictured a bony and withered well-dressed old man who seems friendly to some but off-putting to others. There is a sequel of this poem in The Macabre Masterpiece: Vile Humanity called “Madame Morbid” and this time it’s a woman who is the personification of the Scarlet Fever.

**Tales of the Bloody and Broken:** The poem is about thieves and homeless people(referred to as vagabonds) who become zombies and no longer care for the things they wanted in life. It’s written as a way to show that when they’re dead, the homeless and bad people become just like everyone else wanting the same thing, to feast upon the living.

**Echoes of A Rifle:** Inspired by the Winchester Mystery House and Sarah Winchester, the poem tells of the strange way to which the house was built and how you can still hear and see people building on it today. Though I've never been there myself I've always been fascinated by the mystery house and always watch anything on it (even the film with Helen Mirren which isn't good). Since it's a well known haunted house I thought I'd put my own spin on it and write a poem about it.

**Ghost Soldiers:** The Civil War had thousands upon thousands of deaths within each battle and many still don't know the battle is over. I wrote this poem because I imagine that there are so many ghosts from the Civil War or during the time in general that haunt buildings and places where battles took place. I of course added my own flare to it but there is also some truth to the flare as I have heard accounts of people interacting with ghost soldiers or seeing them and the ghost thinking that they are still at battle, constantly and always at battle.

**The River Styx:** After having called a whole chapter Hell in the previous book I thought, why not write a poem about the very river that flows through Hell? The poem tells of a person's journey on the boat with Charon, the being who brings the dead to Hell. I think it's told in a fun but creepy way to be enjoyed. I suppose there could also be an underlining of metaphors and different interpretations on what the poem is about other than Hell.