



Twilight Tales: A Collection of Chilling Poems

J.T. Holden

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From the critically acclaimed author of *Alice in Verse: The Lost Rhymes of Wonderland* comes a collection of chilling poems, perfect for Halloween...or any other dark and spooky night.

From the creepy jingles of *Shadows in the Nursery* and the eerie angst of *The Darkening 'Tweens* to the malevolently poetic odes of *Medieval Maladies* and the sweeping chills of *The Epic Tales* all perfectly capped off by the haunting afters of *Two for the Road* J.T. Holden's *Twilight Tales* offers a deliciously wicked mix of frightening fare!

Some Material May Be Too Intense For Younger Readers.

Twilight Tales: A Collection of Chilling Poems Details

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From Reader Review *Twilight Tales: A Collection of Chilling Poems* for online ebook

Michelle says

I will be the first to admit that I don't read poetry of any form, but when the chance came to read *Twilight Tales* I thought I would give it a try. Granted it is poetry, but its 'chilling poems' so I was curious to see how poetry could be made 'chilling'.

It didn't take me long to read *Twilight Tales* but I found myself enjoying it. My first thoughts were how much I love the cover, it may be simple but it is very eye catching and I would defiantly stop and pick this up if it were in a shop to see what it was about.

I have a few favourite poems from this book; Mary Worth, Mikey and Little Grey. The poems are split up into different sections, and each section had its own bit of artwork with it, which only enhanced the poems more.

At the back of the book there is a selection of artwork that was originally planned for the poems but ended up not suiting other artwork so they have their own section. Again these pieces of art are as equally amazing as the other pieces.

Anyone looking for a quick light read should pick up a copy of *Twilight Tales* whether you like poetry or not.

Star says

The author of *Alice in Verse* is back with *Twilight Tales*, a book of deliciously scary poems which will hit the spot whether it's Halloween or you just would like a good scare. Not really for younger children, the poems in *Twilight Tales* grip you tightly and crawl into your mind and soul. The illustrations only enhance the poems and their influence on the reader. Bravo! I look forward to much more from the author!!

Zoe says

For those who've read Holden's first book *Alice in Verse: The Lost Rhymes of Wonderland*, the fluid rhyming scheme and clever lyrics of *Twilight Tales* will come as no surprise. Though *Alice in Verse* had its darker moments (*The Mariner's Tale*; *The Walrus & the Carpenter Head Back*), none can begin to hold a candle to the darker moments in this book, which begins with a set of deceptively "innocent" poems, ranging from the subtle and mournful (*The Depths*; *La Llorona*) to delightfully morbid and creepy (*Johnny*; *The Window in the Floor*) to the nostalgia-inducing (*Mary Worth*; *For Agatha*), all appropriately listed under the heading *Shadows in the Nursery*.

Under the second grouping, things get noticeably darker and angst-ridden, with chills ranging from the Freudian (*Night Terrors*; *Blueboy*; *The Final Chorus*; *Seamus*) to the frightful and frenzied (*The Harvester*;

Mikey, a nifty nod, one presumes, to the king of boogeymen, Michael Meyers), all very appropriately listed under the heading, *The Darkening 'Tweens*.

The third grouping, entitled *Medieval Maladies*, isn't really all that scary yet flows beautifully and eerily through a bloody dark ages battlefield (*Darkly*), a royal banquet with a main course that is literally to die for (*The Perfect Servant*), a Shakespearean playhouse after hours (*Echoes from a Darkened Theatre*), a gathering of witches summoning the Prince of Darkness (*Bell, Book & Candle*), the ghost of Richard III roaming the Tower of London, seeking the truth behind the murders of the princes (*Richard's Lament*), and a perhaps overly-esoteric yet compelling clash of titans (*The Lads from Blaithmoor*).

The fourth grouping contains *The Epic Tales*, and true to that title, they are epic in both size and scope.

The first is a wickedly delicious fable entitled *The Sandman & the Dullahan*, which tells the tale of one cold and snowy night when the kindly old Sandman is forced to accept a helping hand from a devious headless horseman known as the Dullahan (to reveal any more here would be a crime—this one is destined to be a classic in its own right).

In the second tale, *A Warm Place*, a lonely vampire is stirred from his musings by an unexpected visitor on a dark and stormy night (again, to reveal any more would spoil it—a perfect late night fireside read).

The third (and by far most gruesome of all the poems in this book) is entitled *Just Desserts...* and for good reason: This is the one they're talking about when they say, "Some content may be too intense for younger readers." Based upon a story every kid who didn't grow up in a cloister has probably heard, this one will stick with you, whether you want it to or not. It tells the tale of two brothers who are sent to the butcher's shop to pick up some meat for dinner. After spending the dinner money on candy instead, the brothers try to come up with a story to explain what happened to the money. On the way home, they pass the graveyard...where there just happens to be a freshly dug grave and...well, I'm guessing you know the rest. But that doesn't matter. It's the way this one is told (in gruesome detail) that makes it a great gory scare-fest...if you have the stomach for it, that is.

The final "epic" tale is an ode to the master of poetic terror himself, in which an adolescent Edgar Allen Poe narrates (and navigates) *Poe's Labyrinth*. While sitting on the dead-fall in his secret sanctuary down in the ravine one night Young Poe is disturbed from his reverie by the appearance of a kid not much younger than he. The kid's clothes are muddy and torn, his face bruised and scraped. In the distance (and closing fast) Poe can hear as many as three or four pursuers...older boys in hot pursuit of the battered kid staring up at Poe with desperate eyes. Poe makes a quick decision to protect the kid. Even though he himself is no physical match for the gang of boys headed towards the tall thorny walls of his sanctuary, Poe has the advantage: His innate guile and lightening quick reflexes. What follows is plainly and simply masterful storytelling at its very best. The fact that it is delivered in the form of a rhyming poem only heightens the suspense. The fact that this rhyming poem is written in the same rhythm and tempo as Poe's classic *The Raven* (not to mention that it contains exactly the same amount of stanzas as that classic poem) makes it an exceptional achievement, indeed. Absolutely not to be missed!

The fifth grouping, *Two for the Road*, contains only two poems, but they are both winners. The first, entitled *Whitechapel*, is a chillingly romantic ode to Jack the Ripper, while the second is a heartwarming (yes, you heard that right) love letter to the author's "clever girl" (to whom the book is dedicated) who hunts and kills on a nightly basis.

There are six major illustrations in this book (five by Andrew Johnson, who did the illustrations for *Alice in*

Verse: The Lost Rhymes of Wonderland, and one by Gene Kelly, whose supplemental art is displayed in a section at the back of the book), and all of them are magnificent.

I stated this in my review of Holden's first book, and it warrants repeating here: J.T. Holden has brought the art of the rhyming poem back to legitimacy...and this exceptional eclectic collection stands as proof of that statement.

Bottom Line: Worth the Price

J.T. Holden says

As always, concerning my own work, it would be inappropriate for me to offer a review. I will, however, say that I am very proud of this book, and very impressed with the art by Andrew Johnson and Gene Kelly.

I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Best,

JTH

Jadonne Liddell says

I bought *Alice in Verse* because I was intrigued by the fact that someone would take on a myth and do such a great job of it. I think Lewis Carroll would be proud. I bought this book because of the trailer. Yes, a book trailer! Maybe that's nothing new for some, but for me it's an innovation. If you haven't seen it, Youtube it. It's almost Halloween and this one is perfect for the occasion!

Kaitlyn Saunders says

4.75 stars.

I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway in return for a fair and honest review.

The only negative thing I found with the book was the subject matter of the first part. The poems (such as *Mary Worth*) are not very scary, unless you read them to a younger child, but the subject matter is too intense to read to a child. I don't know if that makes sense, but it's kind of how I see it. It's really just a small thing, and as the book goes on, the poems get much creepier!

Now that we've got that out of the way, let me tell you what made me love this book.

It looks awesome. The illustrations are wicked, the book itself is simple, and the page layout is perfect. The poems themselves were very impressive. The rhyme and rhythm was incredible! I had to stop reading in my head and start reading aloud because the beat and the flow were so impressive. I am definitely bringing this one to my dorm to read aloud on Halloween night.

This book is perfect for camping, scary stories, or any group activities in general. I'm so pleased! :)

Becky says

I was contacted by the author asking me to review this book, at first I will admit I turned it down, but agreed to read and review his 'Lost Rhymes of Wonderland', the author decided he might as well send both through so I ended up getting this one too, and I have to say I'm pleased he did.

I originally turned it down because I am a wimp and I don't like scary or spooky reads, and these sounded a little bit too dark for me and I'm not a huge fan of poetry anyway.

A couple of the poems were quite dark and made me shiver but most of them were only slightly creepy and I actually found myself enjoying it.

I love the illustrations, first the simple yet effective cover then the pages of illustrations included inside.

My favourite poems are 'Little Grey', and 'Bell, Book & Candle'. 'Mikey' was chilling but strangely captivating.

One of them is set out like a riddle - 'For Agatha', I still can't figure it out, the last line says "With all flames snuffed, you have enough to say which of the ten

Put out the lights upon this night - if not, pray, read again."

I must have read it five times and I still can't figure it out. I must be being slow, I will figure it out!

The poems read with a nice flow and have a great rhythm to them, the poem inside vary in length from short to full stories - a couple of pages long. Some influences are clear in this book, Poe is clearly one, some of the poems have a similar feel to them. If you like spooky reads and spine chilling moments then you will enjoy this book.

Amanda says

Not for me
