

Winterfest Poetry



by Happy Odd Girl

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2025 Edition

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‘ABC’
Poems

~ * ~

Vincent's Chamber

Safety and peace,
Shabby comfort,
Soft light through stained glass,
Surfaces crammed with curios:

A homely haven for a hero.



Winterfest Online 2023

Mouse's Chamber

Engines and electricity,
Gadgets and gizmos,
Ingenious inventions,
Plans and projects...

Here, his genius can flourish freely.



Winterfest Online 2023
(Finished later and not submitted)

Acrostic Poems

~*~

Love's Threshold

Troubled, Vincent
Halts at the tunnel mouth,
Restless,
Expecting her;
Soul stirring at the sight of her,
Heavy heart lifting, he
Opens his arms, enfolds her;
Loneliness dies, and the
Dream lives forever



Winterfest Online 2016

Chambers

Comforting spaces,
Homely and bright;
Art, warmth and friendship,
Music and light;
Books by the hundreds,
Enchantment and charm;
Refuge from danger,
Shelter from harm.



Winterfest Online 2019

Great Hall

Grand, soaring pillars
Reach into the heights.
Everyone gathers
And shares in delights.
Tapestries beautify
High, rocky walls,
As from many candles,
Like sequins and spangles,
Light shimmers and falls.



Winterfest Online 2019
(Finished later and not submitted)

Alliterative Poems

~*~

Father's Library

Leather-bound,
lucid literature,
looming on ledges
in the low light
of the leader's
lovely library.

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Tunnels

Deep, dark dens of defence,
whose decent denizens
daily delight
in doing deeds of derring-do,
or deft design.

They deserve their dreams!



Winterfest Online 2019

Cinquains

~ * ~

Happy Odd Girl ~ Cinquains

Share the Light

Light
Warm, bright
Quickly growing, spreading
Bringing hope, love and unity
Winterfest

~

Winterfest Online 2017

Happy Odd Girl ~ Cinquains

Threshold 1

Threshold
Liminal, transitional
Adventurous, enticing, beckoning
Start of a journey
Beginning

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Happy Odd Girl ~ Cinquains

Threshold 2

Threshold
Safe, secret
Dividing, separating, guarding
Marking the safe boundary
Sanctuary

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Happy Odd Girl ~ Cinquains

Edie

Edie

Strong-willed, feisty

Helping, joking, caring

A faithful companion and ally

Friend

~

Winterfest Online 2023

Happy Odd Girl ~ Cinquains

Pipes

Messages

Constant, communicative
Tapping, talking, connecting
Nerve centre of the World Below
Pipes

~

Winterfest Online 2023

Clerihews

~ * ~

Pascal

Pascal can't enjoy the party:
Music, food - but he's not hearty;
Restless and forlorn he gripes,
Torn from his True Love - the Pipes!

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Edie

She's smart and sassy, that's for sure,
But where's a man she can adore?
She dreams of dancing, light as air -
Who could match up to Fred Astaire?



Winterfest Online 2023

Diamantés

~*~

Happy Odd Girl ~ Diamantés

Father ~ Mouse

Father

Calm, steady

Guiding, studying, teaching

Books, chessmen... Gadgets, tools

Deviating, inventing, learning

Frenetic, energetic

Mouse

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Dark ~ Light

Dark

Saddening, turbulent
Hurting, confusing, disturbing
Lies, death... Truth, life
Healing, clarifying, calming
Joyful, peaceful

Light

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Father ~ Paracelsus

Father

Kindly, trustworthy

Building, nurturing, serving,

Community, unity... division, hostility

Self-seeking, harming, destroying,

Treacherous, cruel,

Paracelsus

~

Winterfest Online 2023

(It seems I never submitted this, for some reason)

Fibonacci Poems

~ * ~

The Dance

See
how
Vincent
and Cath'rine
now dance together
with joyful hearts and great gladness



Winterfest Online 2016

Narcissa

Blind;
Wise;
Alone
in darkness;
Mystery woman;
She sees farther than those with sight

~

Winterfest Online 2019
(Edited in 2025 when I realised I'd missed a line out!)

‘Five Ws’

Poems

~*~

Father

Anxious Father
carries the weight of worry and fear
all the years he lives and leads
Below, where loyalties are strong -
for he yet remembers hard treatment Above

~

Winterfest Online 2016
(One minor tweak in 2025)

Mouse

Ingenious Mouse
creates doors and devices
when danger threatens his friends.
In his chamber of wonders
his loyalty and love find expression through creating.



Winterfest Online 2016

Joe

Sceptical Joe
tested Catherine with tough jobs
when she came to work for him
in the DA's office
because he doubted her motives

~

Winterfest Online 2019

Haikus

~ * ~

The Beginning

He kneels before her,
gasps as she lifts back his hood.
She smiles. No more fear.



Winterfest Online 2016

Huitains

~*~

Whispering Gallery

Find the right spot, and stand quite still,
Then close your eyes and strain your ears,
And magic'llly the music will
Come drifting to you, crystal-clear...
Or, sometimes, you might overhear
New voices from the World Above:
A quarrel that will end in tears,
Or gentle words of quiet love.



Winterfest Online 2023

Chamber of the Winds

The pillars and the curving stair,
Mysterious arches, all aglow -
It's on the way to everywhere,
But no one lingers where gales blow.
Who excavated, long ago,
This lofty and capacious hall?
I don't suppose we'll ever know,
But still we hear its cryptic call.



Winterfest Online 2023

Limericks

~ * ~

Devin

An adventurous fellow named Devin
When his age was roughly twice seven
Tried to help his good friend
So the rules he did bend
And young Vincent thought he was in heaven

~

Winterfest Online 2016
(Not posted for some reason; minor edits 2025)

Vincent

There was a fine fellow named Vincent
Who was very noble and decent
He won Catherine's heart
From right at the start
And always behaved like a true gent.

~

Winterfest Online 2019
(One minor tweak in 2025)

‘Roses Are Red’
Poems

~ * ~

Vincent Is Blue

Catherine's away,
Vincent is blue...
She'll come home to stay
And his joy will renew!

~

Winterfest Online 2023

She's Not Dead 1

Catherine's not dead!
Vincent's fine, too.
And when they are wed
All their dreams will come true!



Winterfest Online 2023

She's Not Dead 2

(A rebellion against everything from *What Rough Beast* onwards)

Catherine's not dead,
Vincent's not mad.
Someone messed it all up -
I wish they never had!

~

Winterfest Online 2023

Shardormas

~ * ~

Winslow

A large man
in body and heart;

Short temper,
faithful soul;

He knew the value of love
and died to save it.



Winterfest Online 2023

Happy Odd Girl ~ Shardormas

Winterfest

Here Below,
far beneath the streets,
gathering
with one heart,
friends long parted meet once more,
joyful together.

~

Winterfest Online 2024

Vincent

He wanders
Below and Above,
our fierce friend,
clawed yet kind:

A hero of the shadows;
a heart full of light.



Winterfest Online 2024

Strambottos

~*~

Happy Odd Girl ~ Strambottos

The Tunnels

Down here, far below all the buildings and streets
A wonderful secret is hidden from view:
A place where acceptance and fellowship meet,
Where dreams can be followed and friendships renew;
A place without cruelty, hates, or deceits,
Where laughter is plentiful, quarrels are few,
Where loneliness falters and sadness retreats,
Where honour shines brightly in hearts that are true.

Here you'll see Samantha and Kipper compete,
Here Mouse makes his gadgets, and William his brew,
Here Father plays chess (though Sebastian cheats!),
And Pascal's old pipes make a hullabaloo;
Here Winslow is forthright and Margaret is sweet,
And Devin returns to the home he once knew;
Here Catherine and Vincent share Shakespeare or Keats,
And dream of the wedding that's long overdue!

~

Winterfest Online 2024; not posted
Completed January 2025

Tankas

~*~

Happy Odd Girl ~ Tankas

Below

Friends
Below the city;
Hidden,
safe and secret;
the ways change

~

Winterfest Online 2016

Happy Odd Girl ~ Tankas

The Listening

Listening,
Vincent and Catherine
together;
rain falls gently
bringing joy

~

Winterfest Online 2023

Other
Beauty & the Beast
Poems

~*~

Haven

Below
the city streets...

A haven of thinking,
of feeling...

of music and magic,
of art and acceptance,
of poetry and peace,
of literature and love

A bastion
of books
of beautiful bric-a-brac
of belonging

A Sanctuary
A Safe Place.



Written in 2023

To Go Below

I sometimes wish that I could go
And visit in the World Below...

~ ~ ~

To enter through a secret door:
To walk those Tunnels and explore
From where the Spiral Stair begins
Down to the Chamber or the Winds!

To gawp at Mouse's prototypes,
Meet Pascal and his well-loved pipes,
Play chess with Father, and maybe
Peruse his wondrous library!

Perhaps they'd have a concert there
That we could all enjoy and share -
Or, in the Whispering Gallery,
The music would flow down to me.

~ ~ ~

And, with good fortune, I might spy
Catherine and Vincent strolling by,
And they might stop and talk to me
Of books and art and poetry!

Happy Odd Girl ~ Other 'Beauty & the Beast' Poems

They'd share a look with eyes aglow,
Then, hand in hand, and walking slow
They'd wander on, content and free
In one another's company.

~ ~ ~

Perhaps, among them as a guest,
I'd get to join in Winterfest:
Ignite my candle in the gloom
Till we illuminate the room!

And then, beneath the tapestries,
We'd share the dancing and the feast,
The music and the magic show,
The games and laughter, there Below.

~ ~ ~

And maybe, down there, I would find
Some kindred spirits and like-minds,
And I'd no longer be alone
For they'd accept me as their own...

~ ~ ~

They'd let me have a chamber there,
And, finally, I'd belong somewhere.

~

Written in 2023

The Crossing

(A poem about Charles, and how Vincent helped him
to enter the World Below)

He fears the crossing,
fears the fall...

But most of all,
he fears the fall
that may come
on the other side...

The fall that has always come.

He has been falling all his life.

~ ~ ~

Yet when he looks up,
he sees the face
of empathy,
of acceptance.

He takes a step,
and then another.

He takes a step away from fear,
a step towards hope.

Happy Odd Girl ~ Other 'Beauty & the Beast' Poems

Step by step,
he crosses the Abyss
to the place
of no more falling.



Written in 2023

Thank you
for reading!

~*~