Porphyria's Lover

Robert Browning was one of the most recognized and respected poets in Victorian Britain. His dramatic monologues, long poems, and silent verse influenced poetic society with his lyrical and romantic poems. Browning is best known for his dramatic monologues, such as Porphyria's Lover, which is a poem about a man who murders his lover in order to possess her. The poem is set in a cottage on a stormy night and describes the speaker's psychological state as he reflects on his actions. The poem explores themes of love, obsession, and the destructive power of passion.

Context
Porphyria's Lover was written by Robert Browning and was published in 1836.

Poems for Comparison

Love's Philosophy

Robert Browning was one of the most recognized and respected poets of his time. The Victorian period of the 19th century was known for its intense focus on individuality, and Browning's work often reflected this emphasis. His dramatic monologues, such as Porphyria's Lover, are characterized by their deep psychological insights and their exploration of the complex nature of human relationships.

The Farmer's Bride

Influences on the Poet

The Poet

Influences on the Poet

The Poet

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The Poet

Themes

Porphyria's Lover - The predominant idea across the poem is that both Porphyria and the speaker claim to love one another, and desire acceptance of their feelings from each other. Both consider love differently - there are doubts whether Porphyria's love is genuine, and the speaker sees love as objectifying and possessing.

Mental Illness - It becomes increasingly clear throughout the poem that the speaker is not mentally stable. Paranoia about whether he may lose Porphyria forever, he neglects making advances towards her, and instead focuses on trusting her advances, murders her so that he can keep her forever. The name Porphyria also alludes to mental illness.

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