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*September 14, 2023*

### Unhaunting the Haunted House by Darrell Petska

Glimmered memories  
like mist shade the rooms—  
Clouded windowpanes,  
recall children's smiles.

Faint echoes of words  
dust the torn curtains—  
Light lean and ragged,  
read what once was said.

Remnants of worry  
fleck the wallpaper—  
Saggy, stained ceilings,  
breathe hope's stubborn air.

Holidays long gone  
soot the fireplace—  
Cold, forbidding hearth,  
rekindle mirth's glow.

Unhanded clapboards  
haunt All-Hallows' dusk—  
Wood warped and pitted,  
shelter time-lapsed souls.

On broken porch steps  
chill darkness descends—  
Long-ghosted pumpkins,  
take bites out of night.



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And killing them  
And placing in  
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Darrell Petska is a retired university engineering editor. His writing can be found in *Third Wednesday Magazine*, *Verse-Virtual*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and widely elsewhere ([conservancies.wordpress.com](http://conservancies.wordpress.com)). Father of five and grandfather of six, he lives near Madison, Wisconsin, with his wife of more than 50 years.

at 11:37:00 AM

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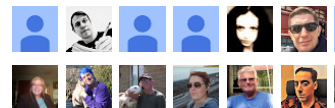
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Unhaunting the Haunted House by Darrell Petska

Glimmered memories like mist shade the rooms— Clouded windowpanes, recall children's smiles. Faint echoes of words dust the torn curtain...

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