

**Tom Merritt from "Spoon River Anthology"**

by Edgar Lee Masters

**Tom:**

At first I suspected something--  
She acted so calm and absent-minded.  
And one day I heard the back door shut,  
As I entered the front, and I saw him slink  
Back of the smokehouse into the lot,  
And run across the field.  
And I meant to kill him on sight.  
But that day, walking near Fourth Bridge,  
Without a stick or stone in hand,  
All of a sudden I saw him standing there,  
Scared to death, holding his rabbits,  
And I could say was, "Don't, Don't, Don't,"  
As he aimed and fired at my heart.