

Reflection example on my villanelle

Explain what you're trying to do, craft wise, and say, message wise, with this piece:

I chose this form because it was the toughest for me and took the longest. Everything hinges on the two lines that are repeated and I just couldn't come up with them. I mined my journals for inspiration, and all I could find was the second refrain about shame. Then, I thought about another entry about a person who puts on a happy face but hides a lonely soul, so I turned that into the second refrain. Now I had a concept – a type of person and the reason they're miserable. Then I looked up words that rhymed with my main end-sound, and came up with the second line and did the same. Once I had that 'skeleton', I was able to develop my concept and follow the rules of the form. Stalagmites was a word in my shame entry because they form in a cave, but not such a poetic word, so I thought about what they meant in my context and looked up synonyms, I found dripstone, but really they're on guard ready to pounce so I made them sentries (guards). After that it was a matter of building the motif of skeleton and burial, stony, flesh retreating, bones, brittle, and so on. In the end I think I achieved my goal of trying to show someone who puts on a happy face for others / society, but who is destroyed on the inside, as walking corpse, and who continues to do this to themselves instead of moving past what's keeping them down. This then creates a spiral where basically the cave gets darker and the light farther and farther away, a self-fulfilling prophecy of sorts, or a grave the person has dug for themselves so deep they can't get out.