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"For he's the master criminal who can  
defy the Law,"  
Macavity: The Mystery Cat --T.S. Eliot

VILLANELLE FOR THE VILLAIN  
(Lugosi, Son of Macavity)

Just look at the great villain's face.  
A common felon he'll never be,  
No feline hood can take his place.

Elegant image of all that's base,  
Seductive sneer and dark esprit,  
Just look at the great villain's face.

Classical evil and black-clad grace,  
Profligate agent of conjury;  
No feline hood can take his place.

His cunning footpads leave no trace  
However long his claws may be.  
Just look at the great villain's face.

No modern heavy keeps apace--  
Water compared to Burgundy.  
No feline hood can take his place.

None can resist his fanged embrace,  
No matter the fate or final fee.  
Just look at the great villain's face;  
No feline hood can take his place!

--Glenna Holloway