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Love, sin

Jenna McClain
University of Southern Mississippi

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“Love, sin” by Haley Beasley (she/they)

ABSTRACT. *This piece challenges heteronormative views on love and religion through McClain’s lens as a girl who grew up to believe her love was a sin. Without shying away from portraying feelings of anger and inadequacy, this poem aims to shed light on the queer experience as a religious individual raised in an area bound by traditional patriarchal ideas.*



STUDENT BIO. Jenna McClain is a sophomore prospective English major from Niceville, Florida. Jenna is involved with the Horticulture Club, Student Geological Society, and the GSA at USM. She submitted her poem titled "love, sin" in the Identity and Culture category on January 26, 2022.

fallen angels,
lost loves of mine,
pressured by god,
to turn to the divine,
a happier life,
a price never paid,
matrimonial love,
a baby to be made,
a duty to the world,
they are drawn one by one,
resentment growing,
man's image in the sun,
they always fly away,
leaving feathers in their wake,
apologies, tears,
saying I was a mistake,
bitter is the life I lead caught between the two,
not weak enough to fall like them,
not strong enough to woo,
one by one they tell me,

"I love you, you're enough"

but guilt surpasses feeling,

and "the right choice" can be tough,

banished from my heart,

each taking a piece,

give it to him in god's name,

let devotion never cease,

loved by him, I'll never be,

that great man in the sky,

all one like me could hope for,

is a lovely way to die,

no false truths for me,

no beautiful lies,

just a heavenly life,

with an angel by my side.

-j.a.m.