

2005

Disgruntled Reader

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Recommended Citation

Tolliver-Osborne, Stephanie A. (2005) "Disgruntled Reader," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2005: Iss. 1, Article 9.
Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2005/iss1/9>

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Disgruntled Reader

Stephanie A. Tolliver-Osborne

I spent four years losing Paradise.
I heard the fire sermon enough times to recite it
and at times, I wished an Angel with a bright key would come to deliver me, as
well.
I don't know how many times my compendious oceans emptied tears of feeling
not good enough, but I have come to understand that sonnets, like prayers, are
something understood,
like liquefaction and why it matters if clothes move that way.
But my pilgrimage is far from over.
I still look for Beatrice in the clouds, and just because I don't see her yet
doesn't mean she isn't there.
I must continue, persevere and keep looking
to find bits of myself and the why and the how
with every breath I take, with every word I read.
I will gather my rosebuds while I may
and maybe one day
I'll find my precious pearl
And remember why I started looking for it.