

Tainted Love

by Linda Simoni-Wastila

Tainted love is stained love, a dirty jeans love, mucky under nails and knees from garden dirt and worms slippery, slickery things compost-heaped, grubs chewing love.

Tainted love is tinted love, a greyer pink love, edges purple from necrosis, halitosis, the lack of osmosis, a hypoxia of the heart hardened boundaries kind of love.

Tainted love is skinny love, skinned and thinned weak broth love, fight veneered, resentment adhered, salty-teared nicotine-laden cloud love, breathed in and cancerous.

