Penance

Mindae Kadous
St. John Fisher College

How has open access to Fisher Digital Publications benefited you?

Follow this and additional works at: http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2003/iss1/7

This document is posted at http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2003/iss1/7 and is brought to you for free and open access by Fisher Digital Publications at St. John Fisher College. For more information, please contact fisherpub@sjfc.edu.
Penance

Cover Page Footnote
Appeared in the issue: Volume 3, Issue 1, 2002.

This poem is available in The Angle: http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2003/iss1/7
Your complexion is a window to the soul,
and it is this that I want to write about-
what Society asks us to endure,
but I am not ready to.

Instead, I remember Father O’ Flanagan’s three Hail Marys
and the confessional box,
its insides I had confessed eight years of my life to-
the same wood-paneled walls with the same gray screen, bordered by
old, silver duct tape rolling up at the corners.

I would stare hard into that gray screen,
as it veiled my complexion from the holy voice on the other side
and worry I was taking too long
and everyone waiting behind me in line would think it, too.

I’d walk out of that confessional box carrying my penance with me-
knowing once again, I’d stand in front of the bathroom mirror
washing my hands clean and counting the blemishes
on my 13-year-old face-
an indication that my life was still out of balance.