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## lovers departing

Erin Breen

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## lovers departing

### Erin Breen

*About Erin: I'm a part-time, online student here at UND with an anticipated graduation date of June 2022. I earned a certificate in creative writing with a focus in poetry from Idyllwild Arts Academy where I also served as the nonfiction editor and social media manager at <http://parallax-online.com/>. My pieces have been published in a few publications and my chapbook, Misconceptions, was published by Wild Idylls Press. Outside of UND, I work full time and intern at Cars.com. I live in Elgin, IL, with my teacup poodle, Betty, and my best friend since high school. I taught myself how to read when I was four and haven't stopped since.*

i can still feel your hot tears on my neck  
wetting my hair, pooling into my skin and entering my bones  
you said you had strong castle walls my soft touch wrecked

i didn't notice the grey outline around your brown eyes until i really looked  
but you already knew how mine changed from green to blue to harsh grey stones  
i can still feel your hot tears on my neck

you told me my skin's warm; called it snowy white  
i imagined myself melting into a tepid puddle of pheromones  
you said you had strong castle walls my soft touch wrecked

my hair tugged at my scalp when you pulled me closer and wept  
my nostrils flared as they filled with your sweet colognes  
i can still feel your hot tears on my neck

every day you proclaimed your love even when I was unkempt  
every night i still miss the gruff sounds of your groans  
you said you had strong castle walls my soft touch wrecked

in every residual drop of dopamine i can feel you like i never left  
you retained the good half of me on loan  
i can still feel your hot tears on my neck  
you said you had strong castle walls my soft touch wrecked