

## Cages

Tom Brinck

5/4/95

it always hurts to hear  
someone convinced  
love puts up barriers,  
pens them in,  
demands —  
someone believing  
love will use them,  
chew them up,  
and spit them out.

when I hear men  
saying this I know  
it's because  
it's their smooth  
excuse for sex  
without commitment —  
the women  
who love them  
can't blame them  
when they leave.

but for the women  
I've known, it's because  
they've known  
the wrong men,  
who trap, deceive.  
it hurts to think  
they've given up.

there still remain  
a few of us.  
believe.