

## **Ugly As Sin**

by Ginnye Cubel

There sits in our closet  
that hideous red shirt

that you bought on clearance  
because you said  
even ugly things need love.

A gross defect of that  
passionate vermillion  
that pushes through our  
veins and stains the heart.

I wore it once  
to a pirate-themed party.  
I cinched it with a belt  
and headed out  
while you were in Cincinnati.

Michael, in all his cleverness,  
said it looked like a 'cardinal sin'  
as we lay in each other's arms.

I know I should burn it,  
but I let it remain—  
ugly as sin—  
just in case  
I need to wear it again.