

## Peter Green

### "The Lie"

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Genuflection / erection in church.  
Sacristy cloth / moth-eaten shroud.  
Secret silence / sacred secrets  
Accumulate dust, aggravate the eye.  
Incautious laughter after confession.  
Benediction ----- fictional fear  
Hidden faces ... Grace is a name,  
Like Chastity, like Lucifer, like mine.  
You took me through the window-stain,  
Drowned in image, incense, choir-refrain  
And slow ecstasy -----  
I'd embrace you if I only knew your name....  
The silent corner haunts my shadow prayers :  
Ice-cold statue -- rapture divine,  
unconscious eyes,  
the open mouth,  
the wound of love,  
the Lie.  
You took me, gave me reasons for  
Saints and missals, vigils, all the more  
Holy martyrs -----  
I'd embrace you and walk through  
the one-way door...  
I'd embrace you, but it would be  
just another lie -----  
(\* which is to say that the statue is the inspiration, but  
not the Lie)

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