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### Poem by Maw Shein Win



### The Prisoners I

(on *Un Chant d'Amour*, a film by Jean Genet, 1950)

skins made of salt  
bright lights in the eye  
fainted, panted  
close up, scar, shape of scallop  
two faces, a vase

## The Prisoners

Published on Talking Writing (<https://www.talkingwriting.com>)

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bit earlobe

goldfleckedspacebetween

two heads that cannot  
separated by wall  
curled bars  
prison guard's hand on  
roses, eyes, leather belt  
lightbulb on wire

smokethroughrain

dirt on the heels  
birdcage, flute, snapdragon  
tattoo dance  
popped corks on floor  
heft of flesh  
terror

suchdelicatenerves

two cells  
two bodies  
two breaths

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### Art Information

- "Kick the Can (Dancing Nowhere)" © Mark Dutcher; used by permission.

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Maw Shein Win's writing has appeared in many journals and several anthologies, including *Mary: A Journal of New Writing*, *Cimarron Review*, *Poetry International*, and *Fanzine*. Along with composer Amanda Chaudhary, she is part of the musical duo Pitta of the Mind, which combines poetry with abstract electronic music. Win's most recent poetry chapbook *Score and Bone* is out from Nomadic Press. Her full-length collection, *Invisible Gifts: Poems*, was published by Manic D Press this past spring. She is the first poet laureate of El Cerrito, California.

For more information, visit [Maw Shein Win at Nomadic Press](https://www.nomadicpress.org/mawsheinwin) [3] and follow her on Twitter [@mawsheinwin](https://twitter.com/mawsheinwin) [4].

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