

Brushed by sin, tempted by salvation

by [Susan Groff Johnston](#) in the [August 1, 2018](#) issue

Humid August nights  
sawdust and canvas  
fresh-cut planks for pews  
thick ropes and pegs  
fibers in the air  
piano music rolling, rippling  
slight breeze of angels' wings  
churning guilt, the maw of hell  
sweating in our cotton dresses—  
tent meeting:  
pounding blood, religion, boys.