

I am not here for the pleasure of men

there's lots of places to start...
to begin to reveal how it all began
how her voice lost its power
in a sea of arrogant men
not just any men, bible believing
men asserting their opinions...
weak in, weak out, sticking
with their metaphorical jargon
their penises down her throat
forcing their beliefs on her
an innocent child, filling her
with, forcing her silence...
her stillness, stop fidgeting
be quiet, shhhh, suck...
a polo mint, don't crunch
make it last, the message
isn't going fast until the end
the peak and pinnacle, pressure
trust and obey there is no
other way, back down
take it, swallow his message
to speak out is offensive
to ask questions prohibited
you're going to burn in hell...
unless you do as I say

they were choking her imagination

Jo Beth Gray