The thesis is thematically defined by the phenomenon of prostitution as one of the oldest trade items. The theoretical part defines the key concept of the work, i.e. prostitution, as well as the relationship between society and this social issue. A brief overview of the history of the particular handcrafts follows with all the regulations and legislation through which the leading elities tried to suppress the existence of marketable love. The practical part deals in-depth with the approach to the concept of love in Russian philosophy of the late 19th and 20th centuries which is reflected in the works of authors of selected literary works. For a more detailed analysis the following authors were chosen: *The Darkness* and *Christians* by Leonid Andreyev, *The Event* and *Nadezhda Nikolaevna* by Vsevolod Garshin, novelette *The Pit* by Alexander Kuprin and at last the short story *Fit* by Anton Chekhov. To understand better the approach of individual authors toward the topic of love, particularly this motif is analysed more deeply in a separate chapter. All above mentioned literary works are presented with their historical and cultural background and their subsequent adoption by the then critics. The actual display of marketable love is for ease of illustration and understanding of the analysed texts based on several key points: the fall on the exact bottom of society, psychological awakening motive, the issue of venereal diseases, the attempts at salvation of fallen women and the theme of suicide as the only possible way out. The last chapter pays attention to the question of whom the authors considered to be guilty in the existence of prostitution – women or men.