



They found me in the parking lot,  
 White lighter in hand,  
 Dashboard covered in ash,  
 Singing "Let it Be"  
 Close range to my steering wheel.  
 I looked up,  
 "DROF" imprinted on my forehead.  
 "No wonder she's always late,"  
 Was all they could say.  
 I rolled the window up,  
 I wasn't done singing.

**Hot Mess**

Spun in from the universe  
 The world aglow,  
 Not a thing to my name  
 Save for a smile  
 With no reason or rationality.  
 I pass the time,  
 Grabbing at ropes of light,  
 Climbing to higher elevations.  
 Encircled by pinpricks of color,  
 We are chaos at its finest.  
 Polaris winks from the center  
 Of the night sky  
 Daring me to think of a wish.  
 Morning light creeps quietly  
 And as the night begins to fade  
 I reach up and slip the  
 Guide star into my pocket  
 So I am never lost.

**Angel Stern**

Careful, careful,  
 Is what one must be  
 With fire.  
 And so the same with  
 Wild desire.

**Wild Desire**

I wish heartbeat was brief  
 But it never is.  
 A good heartbeat is like a good love.  
 Important:  
 So remember,  
 Never dye your hair when you're upset.  
 Resist the temptation to text.  
 Never look back, you can't go back.  
 Burn bridges.  
 If they are necessary, you'll rebuild them.  
 Wear a seat belt when driving  
 Under the influence of heartbeat.  
 And when you really let go  
 Be sure the only one bear witness is a radio.  
 Just so they know you're human.  
 Don't panic love,  
 Everything is going to be wonderful.

**Advice**

*Please recycle to a friend.*

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Cover Photo of Erica chosen for this  
 collection by her sister,  
 Ashley Knowles

A Gift From  
**Origami Poetry Project**

**Selected Poems**  
 Erica Knowles © 2008-2011



**Selected Poems**



**Erica Knowles**

We knew Erica best as a fellow poet.  
 She would email us out of the blue  
 sending us a collection of poems  
 that would magically fall together  
 to form the perfect Origami book.

It was difficult to choose just five for this collection.  
 We hope you love them.

Tracing Hearts ~ *All the World* 2011  
 Advice ~ *Tuesdays Aftermath* 2010  
 Wild Desire ~ *Imaginary Places* 2011  
 Angel Stern ~ *Either Side of Midnight* 2010  
 Hot Mess ~ *Delusions of Grandeur* 2011

**Tracing hearts**

If you stand at the door  
 At just her height,  
 Breathe on the glass.  
 You will find there  
 The outline of a heart  
 She has traced  
 Innumerable times.  
 A promise:  
 You are never alone.

