



**All the World**  
By Erica Knowles

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**Origami Poetry Projects**

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**Bare**

I do not want  
To fool anyone  
Or daze,  
To hold  
Unspoken power.  
I want bare bones.  
The cold truth,  
Like frost on  
A window pane.  
Undeniable  
As my breath  
Curling before me.

**For being a woman**

In this dream  
I had my hands around  
His neck.  
I was strong enough to hold  
Him down.  
And it was he who struggled  
Against me.  
But I woke, as I always do  
Only to be the one  
With purple bruises against  
My collar bone.  
And in the honest light of morning  
I wept for being a woman.

**Useless**

What hurts  
Is pain that is  
Useless to speak of.  
Knowing that  
To voice it  
Would be like  
Crying into the  
Arctic wind.  
Receiving no response,  
Not even an echo.

**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.

**What is yours**

This is it  
The trick is simple:  
Be honest with yourself.  
And never ever settle.  
If you can hold true  
To these two things,  
The world will follow.  
Not just the world,  
But a world you can claim.  
A world belonging,  
Solely to you.

These poems are for learning to stand  
on your own two feet and have been  
inspired by the beautiful and  
sometimes devastating  
honesty of life.

They are for realizing the beauty  
that can be found  
in being alone.