

# Understated Speech

**Katie Kuffel**

I look between these open eyes  
And try to find the time to recognize  
The words unspoken, thoughts provoked  
In defense of my fragile open mind

So I caught the words  
I thought I'd heard to be acceptable  
Reeled 'em in, changed 'em up real good  
Just to form the syllables

Too slowly  
Shake the folly off  
Take this sorry offering  
Of antiquated phrases  
And I'll feel better when the brazen  
Words of understated speech  
Cease

And these brows are furrowed  
Fists are clenched  
And eyes wide open in awkward suspense  
So I blink three times  
Breathe the lines  
I recited to myself, memorized

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I thought I'd heard to be acceptable  
Reeled 'em in, changed 'em up real good  
Just to form the syllables

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Take this sorry offering  
Of antiquated phrases  
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