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

But 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 this folly off
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Of antiquated phrases
But I'll feel better when the brazen
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