**SPINE**

Ellie Pobis

I read once

In a verse of ignorance

“do not brush a flowerlike cheek;

the pearl canvas

of that jaw

might come unhinged

and speak”

and how unfortunate

it might be

to tremble at a woman’s

tones of

thoughtfulness

some would rather admire

the curves of her back

or lovely outstretched feet

but you must let a girl

unbite her lip

before you make

assumptions

about why she’s

holding her tongue

this is about

freedom of speech and

not judging a book by its

cover

because you don’t know

the story inside