

# Poets

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## Agoraphobe

The woman in the cubic room will draw  
her pointy knees up to her chin and fold  
her arms into a knotted bow. Because  
the room's too small, she'll bend to hold  
her head against the lowering ceiling.  
Her neck is arced, her spine a convex curve.  
Her balance fine. Madame la Guillotine.  
Her feet, too big for boots, her toes reserved  
to flattened arches beneath her fetal weight.  
The cubic room allows her oxygen  
but little light. These hours past too late  
for saving grace or plaintive cry and then  
she shifts, not quite a shudder in the dark,  
a lift of facial tics, her plangent smirk.