length x width

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length x width

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2014 Echo Poetry Prize Winner

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sweat warm, sweet
    several-sheeted lines
fan out: veins running parallel
    seething
    stretching to my body yours
from taut ankle up
    the ocean's lovely berth
lies frozen salt water
    (more clay than glass,
        more earth than obsidian)
    immobile monstrosity of bright,
but so, so small! smaller
    than i was led to
expect, the unexpected -
    just in every new look, - a comfort
in surprise, in loveliness.
    (a sudden spreading width
portends a promised length)
i cannot contain my amusement
    and wonder in the sudden bigness
of what you become: a planet
    of clouds, cached in the wet-
wearied world beyond me
    , unwinding, unwaving,
and so suddenly, the sleet and rain
of what become you
    are lifted, and feign bipedal form:
to find rest by my side