

Tendencies

Poetry • Abbey Morelli

Ticking is paralyzing
double check locks until they break off
what good are they now
some words I hate
they can't be the last one spoken
blanket them with a safe word
it fixes things
for now.

blinking can be a nuisance
and a noose'd neck,
if you think about it
you'll have to count each one
I break switches and knobs
buttons are bad too
the urge to press it?

Overwhelming.
Rip pages from books
if a hair falls out
pull more
until it's even
everything even
unless done perfectly
the first time with one
rare.

One time I snapped my hairbrush in half
everything has a count
it wasn't adding up
Reading causes a stiffened spine
when I can't decide
if it's time to turn the page
I don't like ending sentences with 'up'
but I'll do it for you here
Sometimes I claim I can stop
If I wanted to