

The Queen
by Andy Perry

She removed her crown
melted it down
made a ring
for every finger in the kingdom

Knocked her castle to the ground
raised a city with the stones
a home for every tired body
tossed by the great storm

She walked the streets in plain clothes
ate plain food, smiled
at every face she passed
young or old, known or unknown

Dismantled her ancient oaken throne –
cracked it to pieces –
kindled a colossal fire
at the center of the city

The blaze reached the sky
breached the long night
blew warmth into every open window
drew the people, one by one
to gather 'round the light