

All Boxed In

HOW DO I GROW IN A BOX?

Grow inwards, not out.
Gain wisdom and knowledge,
And your inner being will sprout.

HOW DO I LIVE IN A BOX?

Don't waste precious energy
Trying to knock the walls flat.
Have faith they will fall,
Leaving your sanity intact.

HOW DO I FIGHT IN A BOX?

Keep your head down,
Blend in with the mud.
Don't cry even a little,
Or your small space will flood.

HOW DO I LOVE IN A BOX?

Start with yourself,
It may not be easy to do.
Put yourself above all else—
If you don't, then who?

HOW DO I LEARN IN A BOX?

Count the bricks that contain you,
Multiply ideas in your mind.
Read deep into your past,
And subtract your time.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BOX?

I find myself contained within four walls
For being labeled criminally askew.
I am truly yours in the struggle,
Trying to survive my box too.

—Ladrina Johnson