



## AWE (A Woman's Experience)

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### The Mask

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# The Mask

I step  
Into the shower  
After a long,  
Long day.

Warm water  
Flows over my face,  
Erasing  
The mask I wear.

Eyeliner  
Mascara  
Stream down my cheeks  
Like jet fuel.

Foundation  
Blush  
Eyeshadow  
Erased in an instant.

The crayon  
That masks my  
Eyebrows I plucked too much  
Is gone.

What's left is  
Brown unlined eyes  
And pale skin  
With red spots here and there.

The Pressures  
Expectations  
And Judgements of others  
Fade away. For now.

I can finally  
Cry  
And Worry  
And Feel.

I can finally  
Laugh  
About the dumbest things  
So hard my stomach hurts.

But tomorrow,  
I'll do it all  
Over  
again.

I'll paint the mask  
On  
Just to  
Wash it off.

And I'm content  
With this way of life,  
I guess.  
It's what's expected of me.