An Unexpected Proposal

1. Pinkie—what are you doing?

You twitch, spasm, jolt,

As he kneels to the ground—

You can’t take the anticipation,

When the bombshell is dropped.

1. The next finger is where it all makes sense.

You stand straight—like a soldier at attention,

As the freezing metal encompasses you.

Why must you agree—before I can even say yes?

1. You—my lame finger—are pointless,

You simply hang in disbelief

At the situation at hand.

Your shock mirrors my face,

As my jaw goes slack—nearly dropping to the floor.

I know you’ll be there—need I say no.

1. You live up to your name—

As you check to make sure he’s speaking of me.

You curl to face my chest, trembling slightly,

He looks at you and laughs—nodding, nodding his head.

1. Your curvy stature slides over my nose—

As my surprise is expressed.

You provide support for my hand clasping to my face,

Concealing my gasp of surprise—

You’re the first to be bombed by a tear,

Created by an unexpected proposal.

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My poem, “An Unexpected Proposal,” tells the tale of a woman who is being proposed to, much to her surprise. I used an excessive amount of dashes and commas to show the frantic and shocked emotions that are running through the woman’s head. This poem takes place in the present-tense to create the feeling that the proposal is actually happening while you read, rather than a reflection of the proposal.

1. My first stanza describes the pinkie. The pinkie describes the woman’s shock. The pinkie in this poem tends to “twitch” and “spasm.” These motions show that the woman is freaking out inside—as to be expected when getting proposed to. The spastic nature of her pinkie shows her anticipation, which creates a bit of foreshadowing if the reader hasn’t read the title and realized what the poem entails.
2. The ring finger is the important finger in a proposal. In order for the ring to comfortably slide onto her finger, the finger needs to be straight. The straightness also shows her shock. She is frozen in place from the shock of being proposed to, which is represented by her finger standing “like a soldier at attention,” which is a simile.
3. The middle finger isn’t very useful, which is clear in this poem. The finger is compared to the bride-to-be’s face, as her jaw drops, similar to how the finger hangs in disbelief. There is some visual imagery that adds to the overstatement of her “jaw nearly dropping to the floor.” The last line in this stanza describes the typical use for the middle finger, and she can make use of this if she needs to say no to the engagement. There is also a pun, when the finger is in a state of disbelief at “the situation at hand.” This poem is about a hand!
4. The pointer finger in this poem does just that—points. She points to herself to check and make sure she isn’t mistaken, and he is actually proposing to *her*. This stanza is all about the visual imagery of the proposal. She points to herself in shock; he sees her pointer finger, laughs, and nods. It creates the contrast of a lighter tone in this stanza compared to the others. I repeated the word “nodding” to create the feeling that he is actually nodding.
5. The thumb represents the woman’s realization that she is actually being proposed to. Her hand covers her mouth as her thumb slides over her nose. She starts to cry, and the tear reaches her thumb first. The last stanza sums up the whole poem and states the title. The proposal was unexpected, and she is crying and gasping after realizing that she will soon be married. The thumb is holding her together. It supports her hand on her face; it holds her up in her state of shock.