

# UNDERSTANDING AUTISM PODCAST

## *Orderly*

by Nicole Kubulis

Some of us want to live  
As if we exist in a pattern  
Like the ones on our clothes  
What beautiful, manufactured sameness

Stripped of the unknown  
There's a path determined for us  
We see what direction we're headed  
Assured that our routines are repeatable

We know what to expect  
When our expectations are not met  
We hold ourselves to high standards  
Snags don't exist in our plans

When the clutter is cleared  
The details emerge in the order  
Of the things that create anxiety  
The disorder we desire to reject

Much like how the therapists  
Become the saviors  
Fixing my autistic behaviors  
Since it's a disorder that makes a rift

I don't get how this  
Human desire for predictability  
Makes you miffed  
When I stay in my room

Swiftly organizing my toys  
Carefully categorizing my books  
Looking for trends in statistics  
Ticking tasks off my checklist

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Obsessively measuring shapes  
Shading so pencil strokes  
Are seamless. I don't want an A+  
I want respect, since I bet

No one can see  
Being orderly  
Is the gift of my neurodiversity  
And my sense of safety

I want to control  
The whole direction of my life  
The experiences, the sensations  
The people around me

Even if I don't understand  
How to play by the rules  
Of neurotypicality's  
Interpretation of control

I close myself off in my room  
So I can assuage the overstimulation  
Of a chaotic world that exists  
Off the kilter of its own axis

It's such a blessing  
To escape into a pause  
To have agency  
And autonomy

To organize, fantasize  
In a space that doesn't  
Underestimate me. There,  
I'm not afraid of what comes next

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