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## All's Fair

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# All's Fair

Johanna Medrano

There are three sides to war.

Your side.      My side.      The right side.

What triggers the battle?

Random.      Trivial.      Anything, really, a call to arms.

We fight this war on many fronts. The conversation, a minefield.

I tiptoe through it dodging your bullets, your arsenal of  
adjectives      examples      fact and fiction.

I, armed with my foggy memory and perception.

I trip, I slip.      I stumble and stutter.      Flustered, I fall

on a landmine.      Shit.

You erupt. A torrential barrage of words spew forth and

shrapnel rains on my brain      and slices my skin.

Death by a thousand cuts.

Your honesty brutal, pounds on me like truth on steroids, relentless, aggressive.

Bewildered,      tired,      embarrassed      pissed.

Through clenched teeth I raise a white flag. Unacceptable.

Why?

You demand the perfect story-book surrender and appropriate reparations.

Survey the damage, Shwartzkoff.

Broken promises.      Bruised Egos.

Bleeding ears      and      battered hearts

litter what remains of our relationship.

Does this seem perfect to you?

We fight a war with no winners, just casualties.