

Blackout Poetry

A poet starts with established text and redacts from it until a new, original poem is formed.

MYSTERIOUS NIGHT LIGHT

A mysterious ghostly light which has been appearing recently on the road across Inch Eank leading from the mainland at Tooban into Inch Island is terrifying people who reside near this part of the island. The mysterious light was first seen by a Tooban

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POETRY

BOOKS

From the heart of this dark, evacuated campus
I can hear the library humming in the night,
an immense choir of authors muttering inside their books
along the unlit, alphabetical shelves,
Giovanni Pontano next to Pope, Dumas next to his son,
each one stitched into his own private coat,
together forming a luminous book of clouds.

Half of the fun is choosing the original source and medium.

after leaving a party at Inch Island. The driver saw a sudden bright flash, from what is described as "a ball of fire," emerge into the roadway before the bus. The strange light was so powerful that it momentarily dimmed the headlights of the bus.

As quickly as it had appeared, the light vanished. Since then, the light has been reported seen by several people who have been abroad in this district at night.

Blank lined paper with a faint, illegible smudge in the center.

walls within walls, as rain soaks New England,
or standing in a bookstore in a trench coat.

I see all of us reading ourselves away from ourselves,
straining in circles of light to find more light
until the line of words becomes a trail of crumbs
that we follow across a page of fresh snow;

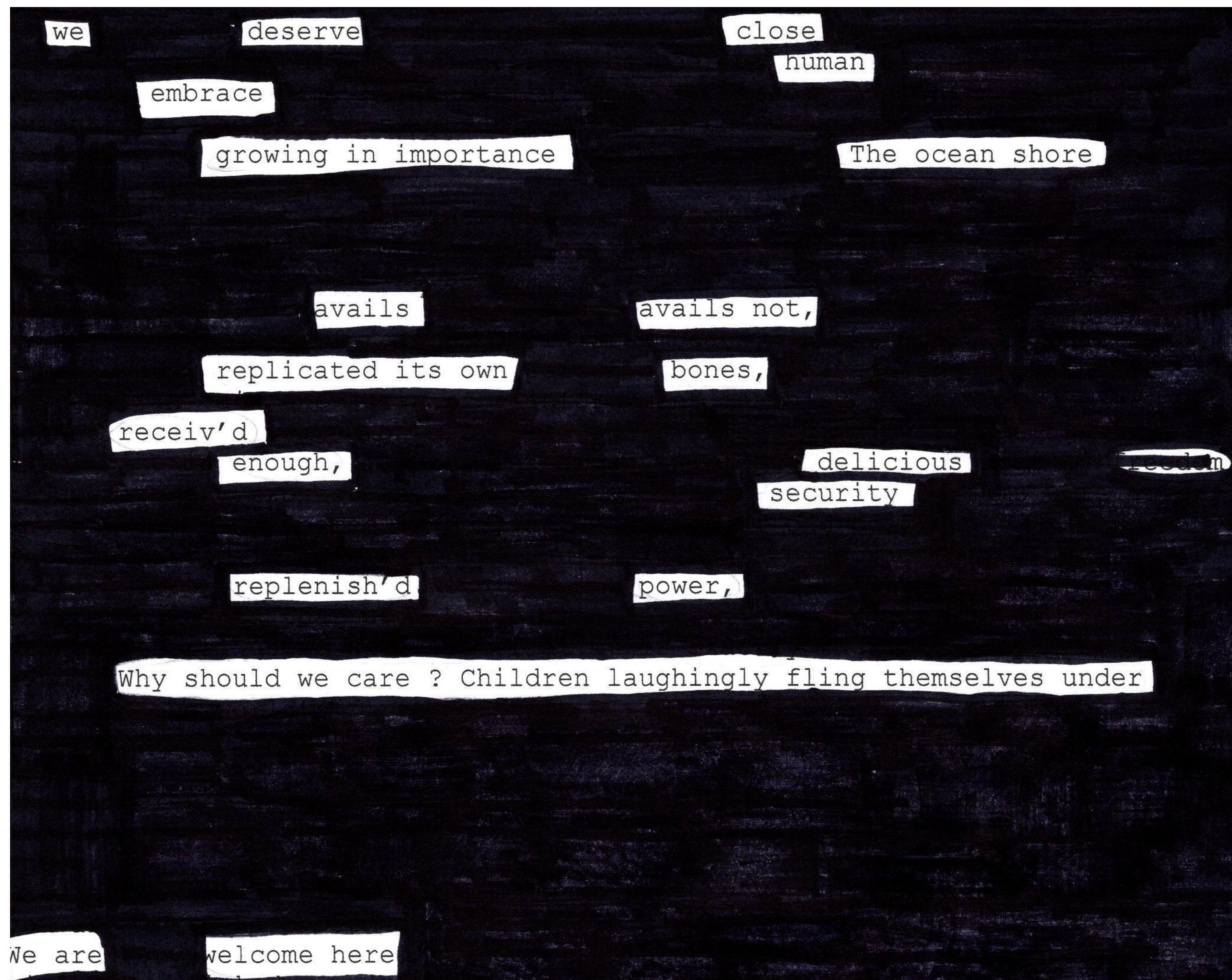
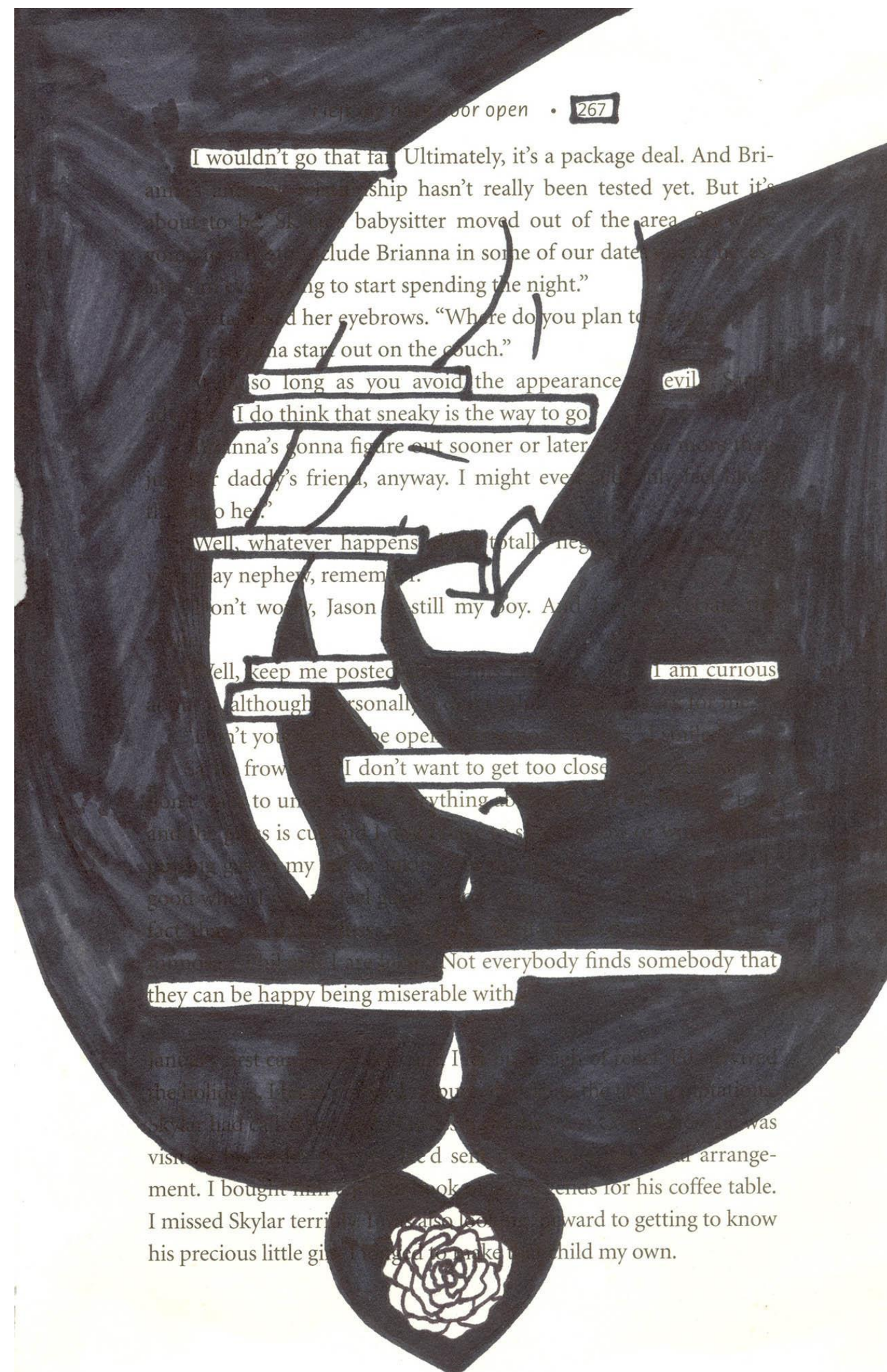
when evening is shadowing the forest,
small brown birds flutter down to consume them
and we have to listen hard to hear the voices
of the boy and his sister receding into the perilous woods.

THE O MISSION REPO

Travis Macdonald's *The O Mission Repo* is a book of blackout poetry written atop the 9-11 Commission Report. Evocative and daring, it displays the power of writing blackout poetry and importance of choosing a source.

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More Examples



Caption

Significance

- Escaping writer's block
- Introduction to poetry
- Creating evocative poetry