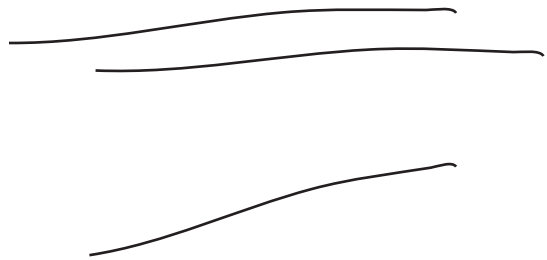


Faraway Play

by Johanna Reed



Advierto

lo primero que en todo lo que escribo
me sujeto del ala de una mosca

lo segundo que en todo lo que escribo
me sujeto del ala de una mosca
mejor dicho me aferro con dientes y muelas

lo tercero que en todo lo que escribo
me sujeto del ala de una mosca

etc etc

I Warn You

that first of all in everything I write
I am hanging from the wing of a fly

that second of all in everything I write
I am hanging from the wing of a fly
or rather I am clinging tooth and nail

that third of all in everything I write
I am hanging from the wing of a fly

etc etc

—*Nicanor Parra*

NOTE—

Faraway Play has been performed on the following occasions:

Cesar, John, Sarah – New Orleans, Los Angeles, Boston
November 17-28, 2010
in French, English, and English; 56:18

Brian, Gabriel, Silvie – Portland, Los Angeles, Amsterdam
November 18-22, 2010
in English, Spanish, Dutch; 44:07

(currently)

Melissanthi, Casper, Martin – Los Angeles, Amsterdam, Berlin

The audio documentation of these performances can be found at

<http://johannareed.net/faraway.html>

Characters—

ONE

TWO

THREE

Notes—

Faraway Play is for three performers in three different locations.

The performers are alone when they perform. They document their performance by means of an audio recording. Each subsequent performer plays the previous performer's audio documentation during their own, so that the two voices are recorded as one documentation, and so on, like this:

ONE's performance = one.mp3

TWO's performance + one.mp3 = two.mp3

THREE's performance + two.mp3 = three.mp3

three.mp3 is the final documentation.

Instructions for Performers—

You will document your performance by recording your voice.

Performers TWO and THREE will play the previous performer's documentation during their own performances.

For performer ONE:

Record your performance without stopping.¹

Pause briefly between each part.

Say which part it is, out loud.

End the recording when you have finished the Eighth Part.

Save your documentation as one.mp3.

Send it to performer TWO.

For performer TWO:

Begin recording your performance.¹

Play one.mp3 at the same time.²

After performer ONE is finished saying the First Part,

pause one.mp3, and say yours.

Resume playing one.mp3 for the Second Part, pause it to say

yours, and so on.

End the recording when you have finished the Eighth Part.

Save your documentation as two.mp3.

Send it to performer THREE.

¹ You can use Garageband, or something similar.

² You can use iTunes, or something similar.

For performer THREE:

Begin recording your performance.

Play two.mp3 at the same time.

After performers ONE and TWO have finished saying the First Part, pause two.mp3, and say yours.

Resume playing two.mp3 for the Second Part, pause it to say yours, and so on.

End the recording when you have finished the Eighth Part.

Save your documentation as three.mp3.

Send it to Johanna Reed.

If something goes wrong, don't worry about it too much; just keep going with recording your own performance.

Special Note—

Some of the parts may require preparation.

‡

ONE

First Part

[say your name and where in the world you are]

Second Part

[what it looks like where you are sitting: describe it]

Third Part

[the last thing you wrote by hand: read it out loud]

Fourth Part

[your favorite poem³: read it out loud]

Fifth Part

[your thoughts on how flight attendants, or parking garage attendants, or ticket booth attendants, always look sad: articulate them]

Sixth Part

[your bravest moment: describe it]

³ Poem can be a text message, a short story, a Facebook status update, a poem by a poet, or whatever you want.

Seventh Part

[the best thing a lover ever said to you: say it like they said it]

Eighth Part

[the skin on the back of you being zipped up like a kind of
mask: imagine how this would feel and describe it]

‡

TWO

First Part

[say your name and where in the world you are]

Second Part

[what it looks like where you are sitting: describe it]

Third Part

[the last time you laughed until you cried: tell the whole story]

Fourth Part

[the smallest thing you can think of that is your favorite of all
small things: talk about everything that comes to mind]

Fifth Part

[your earliest memory of feeling free: remember it out loud]

Sixth Part

[your saddest encounter with your parents: describe it]

Seventh Part

[the five things that you want done to your body by another person: list them]

Eighth Part

[the best thing a lover ever said to you: say it like they said it]

‡

THREE

First Part

[say your name and where in the world you are]

Second Part

[what it looks like where you are sitting: describe it]

Third Part

[the best thing a lover ever said to you: say it like they said it]

Fourth Part

[your thoughts on the leaves of plants, the way whiskey barely coats the glass, words in a line on a flat white square, when your tongue feels fuzzy: talk about them]

Fifth Part

[the inside of the space of your head, if it's a room or an aquarium or hilltop or mousehole or whatever: move around in it with words]

Sixth Part

[the last joke you heard or told: tell it]

Seventh Part

[Bolaño said, "...time isn't the only source of terror. Pleasure can be terrifying too, and so can courage."⁴ Anything else you can think of to include there: talk about it]

Eighth Part

[the sound of being truly alive: make it]

END

⁴ "Total Anarchy: Twenty-Two Years Later," Introduction to Antwerp. 2002.