

My Real Presence

A play, by Johanna Reed



“The difference between something
and nothing is nothing.”

—*Paul Bowles*

My Real Presence

A play, written as a participatory performance.

Duration—

Two weeks, intermittently.

Characters—

JOHANNA REED, 26 years old, tattoo behind left ear
the size and shape of an eyelash.

Setting—

Belgrade. Summer 2010.

Notes—

The following text is to be performed by Megan May Daalder, for the period of August 25 through September 8, 2010, at the Real Presence 10 Workshop in Belgrade, Serbia.

The text was transcribed from Johanna Reed's voice by MacSpeech Dictate Version 1.0 Build 1252.

How the text is to be performed is left to the performer's discretion: she can decide when to perform it and at one point to stop, and if she desires, when to start it back up again, during the duration of the performance; she does not have to perform it in the progression in which it is written here; she can choose which pieces to leave out, and if she at all wants to explain it to her audience.

JOHANNA REED

[her name]

I is on a 05 out oh no on a Yolanda Jo on a Your Honor on a
Honda Honda one Hana and go long on no longer deal a go
on go on go on go on a Donna and Honda are no other on
it year or a mother and want to go on and on it goes, no 00
Needles Hall of honor your little on no conduct your Honda on
a Honda on a real on Dell on it on your monitor on an Io on it
on go on go on a need of Neil on yeah on Lana Johannes Johan
and Johan and Donna Romana Johan at that time and it on the
euro on a one Yolanda on a

[where she is from]

Unless it's what laws and show its Los Angeles Los Angeles
Los Angeles antigun from lost Angeles I am from LA and

[what she does]

I am an artist and a writer artist and writer to make a living
and work at the designer and a research assistant in the art
science and at UCLA

[her five favorite things in life]

Sucking gain reading the New Yorker into back to the first sip
of coffee and having someone read aloud to me and and and

[her favorite joke]

Amnon Chomsky says about needing to see?

[her current projects]

I have a good luck letters to that object and then thinking
about starting a series of flu on it are kind of strange and dark
things like fishhooks down writing smart plays using a speech
of up re-creating some photographs of a Japanese animal
pornography on a small cult sex by myself mostly reading and
writing

[her two recurring nightmares]

I have a re-occurring since I was a child children actually the first one it always involves being buy myself a small boat as some kind of glass bottomed more ordered transparency but I can see through lines very small them all is alone on it so I feel very vulnerable but I could capsize it anytime the water and also I'm always in motion the water is black each is okay black water and there are even know her meds gigantic whales right knee with both gigantic egg are bigger than skyscrapers horizontal skyscrapers and are trying to look very slow moving so they don't necessarily make any kind of sudden emergence but then a but they try to get at me in a tight at e-mail turn my little boat upside down or war the second dream the second nightmare I have more frequently than the Blackwater whale one of lay the Blackwater won a means that I could never be a diver work of scuba dive and witch is kind of a shame bet I'm terrified of the ocean at night but also since subpoena fascinated so the second nightmare is much more frequent and violent it occurs in these three times along in it all also saying

sonar and although its are different settings of a man this can and try to attack and kill my sister or my grandmother or my mother or my font or someone in my family is I never know what they are there anonymous men are always different but they are dangerous and violent event like they want to hurt my sister or some women in my family and in the dream I have to kill them in the decision happens there is a moment when I realized what I have to do at and when I realize that I have to kill them to protects to protect somebody but I love I also realize that the only thing I have to kill them with my bare hands so I start trying to kill them with my bare hands MS always a moments after I've done this for a few minutes where I realize that I'm to have to do a lot more to kill them by their hands I have to not just try to punch them in the chair out their eyes have two weird there... that they're caught my has to care their skin is a lot tearing thing about be streams it's kind of nice is that I always end up killing nine I do succeed in killing them but the process of killing a man with only your hands is a terrible process live through

[her recent life, the last three or four months]

This strange place of us do really devastating fans a formidable time I learned a lot about myself on it also felt really small as it tired actually really exhausted at the person will more than anything else I simply can't be still life that realization that the person who I respect to involve deeper than anybody else is somebody that I can't be a good we were married in the first week that I was if it is just while I sit for about two years like that in a in brief because I was so young and and I know that this is to be true in people are very dubious and singling this a nice evening so fast and so convinced that this will be the case the rest of my life but it's it perhaps is difficult to explain how I know you know it's true I met somebody else who I adore the most part I just feel exhausted and bearing small I lost 20 pounds in games back +10 offered all of you who okay he is and degrees or a decision like return to writing and be quiet and in spent as much at is really really good for me it means there is a stone's in these out of a jar that it's flat now sleet been completely silent subheads laughing together

and we walked in the four of us in the rain and we stood in a grove of trees performed his talking beads began but mostly I does decide to Islam in almost every day and get ice and I blame to get a different flavor of ice cream every time a guy decided what my favorites are plot to it and not Cessna and use a default love us as he started small strange to see it and I realize that will longer be in love with each other and we wake up and gives a writing all this letter it's been reading career my favorite novel of all time sheltering sky at all pools are locally kind of little aluminum is where I came on a sense where in the times I heard it before I always thought this is what you believe that I'll hold should be a description of what is.he buried it in sentences long sentence and this is a little phrase separated by dashes in the middle in the area but his book is about an any read it before I've always come across and thought oh it is now so funny is this is reading it I forgot he an irony care in feeling about the last four times in printed out four times the last eight years or so my favorite masturbating a lot and I decided to the address like the bottom.

[her shoes]

I wear clogs because they're sexy.

[her thoughts on the problem of presence]

Until this this problem's sword and flying how can you ever
need somewhere really be somewhere else the differences being
there physically versus just thinking and feel a chill at my work
is trying to with this in the way of dealing with it directly or
by trying to be just me works that facilities present or or kind
of taking it for granted and he I think we take it for granted
that we have a presence. My husband talks about how we only
part of us that is really asked that can really define encapsulate
who we are if we were to try to need a piece of a bet it is
fundamentally movie are its arts center of gravity. In this case
my son I bet it won't be a Belgrade but my presence will so
what is the difference between where I am and where I present
as. Also at that and say see its main different places city and
it's kind of like he's here and set it to the river is supple and

set it to the nine she's in Los Angeles but his name in a beat
physically in Belgrade but mine were thinking will be. I think
that the reason why there's a problem presents all is because
consciousness itself is it that you it could go it anymore and
sometimes it feels that it does Scolari beat you just take you
somewhere else not have been and what your Senator gravity
looking I think becomes an issue because decent free as in
freedom and moves around a shape shifter that's like a bird
and my words here presents but not necessarily unmeaning
wouldn't they are changed by this technology will idea what
our? I'll take that one of the things that helps with the problem
of preferences pane, pain tends to make presence feel real.
Pleasure is the opposite bank at least for me it tends to take
me away from you on. I think when we feel pain we recognize
when you wake up to where we are a moment where are center
of gravity consciousness is. And he slapped me that I spoke
I'll read a book cannot go somewhere else in that both. I'll
leave now right now its robot will come up with things that he
thinks I'm saying.

It's a

END

Acknowledgments—

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Megan, of course, must be thanked. Megan, thank you.

This play is dedicated to Wojciech.