

UCLA

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

Whit

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/48b3s258>

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal , 35(3)

ISSN

0161-6463

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Publication Date

2011-06-01

DOI

10.17953

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WHIT

Orlando White

There is a silence on paper, which does not require ears only the reverberation
of a page turning—

She asks, *So how does it feel to be a letter?*

She waits for him to notice her.

She is exclamation-like

but upended, her feet tiptoeing,

balletic in her black tutu;

scurrying dashes of ink

as if calligraphic, as if a quill pen

on parchment annotating solicitude.

He replies, “I think of it as a carapace, a place of solitude and cerebration—”

She ensues to prance around him,

but he is ensconced,

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his body catafalque as she divulges,

I like that you don't expire!

“—we will not lapse because we are equipoise,

we embody each other like iota,

we are not obmutescent. You are verb, and I, noun;

when you locomote, your toes traipsing

I feel to spur from my exocarp

to accord my bones to tremble.”