



hh

Emmanuelle Waeckerlé

0 **O**

*Alone together,*

**O,**

*Echoes of O, , of O, of you.*

Her lover one day takes *O* for a walk.

They were eager to hear *O* howl, the sooner the better.

*O* was twisting, groaning, sighing, weeping under the lash, begging to be spared and not having her prayers answered.

*O* was speaking slowly, determined not to say one word that wasn't true.

Her mouth forced open by his tongue, *O* moaned from happiness and deliverance.

*O* stared at them through her plumage, stared at them with wide open eyes, eyes as round and open as the night bird she represented.

When questioned , this owl proved truly what it was, deaf to human speech and mute.

Her lover one *O* for .

They were to *O* howl, the sooner the better.

*O* twisting, , sighing, weeping under the , begging to be not her .

*O* slowly, determined not to one word true.

Her mouth forced open by his tongue, *O* from .

*O* them through her , them with wide open eyes, eyes round open the night bird she represented.

When questioned , this owl proved truly it , to speech mute.

lover one      *O* for .

to      *O* howl, .

*O* twisting,      , sighing,      ,      to      not .

*O*      slowly,      not to      one word .

mouth      by his      , *O*      from .

*O*      through      ,      with      ,      round  
night bird .

this owl      truly      it      ,      to .

*O* .

*O* , .

*O* , , , , to not .

*O* , not to one word .

mouth by , *O* from .

*O* through , , round .

owl truly , to .

(breath)

(breath)

*O* , , , ,

*O* ,

by , *O* from

*O* , ,

owl , to

(breath) , , , ,

(breath) ,

, *O* from

(breath) , , ,

(breath) , ,



, *O*

(breath)

final *ode*  
for 2 voices and (possibly) one  
instrument, based upon Pauline Reage 's  
*Story of O*.

one starts reading aloud from the beginning (*her lover  
one day takes O for a walk*), the other reads page 1 and 2  
with eyes only, starting aloud on page 3 (*lover one O for*) some-  
times after the first one has began page 2 (*her love one O for*).

Meanwhile the instrument (if any) releases each  
O as a short or a long note played softly.  
The lines are read slowly, pausing in  
between each, blank spaces  
are silent and (breath)  
audible.

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