



*O*

*Alone together,*

*O,*

*Echoes of O,*

*, of O, of you.*

(instrument only)

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 \_\_\_\_\_, begging to be spared and not having her prayers answered.

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

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

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

When questioned \_\_\_\_\_, this owl proved truly \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_, deaf to \_\_\_\_\_ speech \_\_\_\_\_ 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*

*O*

truly

(breath) , , , ,

(breath) ,

, *O* .

(breath) , ,

(breath) ,



, (breath)



an *ode* to *O* for 2 voices and one  
instrument, based upon Pauline Reage 's  
*Story of O*.

*O* is gently stripped of her story before being breathed  
away. Instrument begins alone, releasing *O* as a short or a  
long soft tone from the 3 lines pre-text, thereafter choosing  
which *O* to release or keep silent. Readers start on page 1 (*her  
lover one day ...*), choosing carefully in each phrase which word(s)  
to voice alongside *O*.

Each finds their own pace of reading, speaking, playing,  
tentatively as if to oneself, while listening attentively  
to the others. Blank spaces are silent and (breath)  
audible.

hh