



ROYAL DAYLIGHT OIL 2009

OF 50

evacuated (disembodying katrina)

Jennifer Karmin

for the 1,836 dead

for the 705 missing

for all the survivors

evacuate:

1. to make void, annul, deprive of force or validity
2. to remove to safer surroundings

from still and across florida

day the stunned grieving
in random desperation
nation calling
left no lying
days marked
make personnel
flooded strangers
the to them people

tulane eat and up

first a suffering
biloxi conducting me
lost family
the much limit same
all can to before
and friends that in to i
to in our pledge hit it
it and future there

new again the nearly

restored port moving
pipelines disruptions levees
and receding the with water
and out them rest
some and generosity
is who all night
and than of now
in have people

more emergency

other should need
of assistance during help
and back reach to great benefits
of than fifty
and as checks persons
and so carry
effort have more
unprecedented the second

the their along wind

mississippi destroyed
than safe people find people
october evacuees many
own evacuees to will
are disaster huge to temporary health
sending we used fire
new urgently providers to sleeping
port on will basic as forward

government states new

they way of the schools
get this so general
there details according
will governor state role communities
zoning avoid and jobs
women our rebuilt
than are places on poverty
poverty discrimination of this restore

and inequality be those families

the prepared

the to overcome

the real place

city a new

that this rebuild meet ideas

the with tonight opportunity

in we tax that

for them that that

we they region

accounts help government
thousand for get expenses
citizens better an will
the low-income in
the from home of central
of new much
the have in that is been orleans
a come work protection

the coast reconstruction that something

americans is of give
to arm in who air deployed
been cash is example
president of that used
portion of expense
is people the congregations
for reach gulf corps
at country the school

troops touch

alabama help can find
government as up-to-date
outbreaks of the in of reaches
a to have undertake counterparts
in the katrina
major order was disaster
many coast united and the level
was is scale role our

on frightening right

a fails president
the secretary the will
are necessary for evil
united function and parties
in often force are lived and fire
who of this and better never nature
trials often of
of a house

us life of

when porch on
is that and homes
churches mended
new rumble of
place of through
a cemetery
place line death through
see god

*There are certain formulas, word locks, which will lock up
a whole civilization for a thousand years.*

William Burroughs, *The Job*

These poems are based on the text of the speech
President George W. Bush delivered in New Orleans
on September 15, 2005. Every eighth word of the speech
was saved. The rest of the words were evacuated.

(*Evacuate* has eight letters. Hurricane Katrina took place
in August 2005, the eighth month.)

Jennifer Karmin is the author of the text-sound epic *Aaaaaaaaaalice* (Flim Forum Press, forthcoming 2009). She curates the Red Rover Series and is a founding member of the public art group Anti Gravity Surprise. Her multidisciplinary projects have been presented at festivals, artist-run spaces, and on city streets including: Betalevel (CA), Links Hall (IL), the French Broad Institute of Time and the River (NC), the Poetry Project (NY), the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (MI), and Woodland Pattern Book Center (WI). At home in Chicago, she teaches creative writing to immigrants at Truman College and works as a Poet-in-Residence for the public schools.

Thanks to Marcus Civin who published a selection of these poems in *Disaster* issue 3.

Special thanks to Dusie founder Susana Gardner, my project partner Cathy Wagner, super helper Ashley Colley, and all the past/present/future members of the Dusie Kollektiv for continued inspiration.