





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.

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