

Tracey Rolfe

holes

there's only one thing you should never find in them

all sorts of things fill them dirt water reflections of stars your own
face the night the splendour of a rising sun a rabbit a snake
even a kangaroo

they can seem bottomless so you could drop a stone and stand listening
for the splash forever you might doubt your ears or think the stone
attained such speeds that it disintegrated or that there was no water
at the bottom and you missed the dull thud don't toss your coins in
unless you plan to make an almighty big wish

sometimes you find yourself in them staring out blinking into sunshine
too bright too brilliant and there seems no way out you can't climb
jump haul yourself out you're stuck better get used to it there
are worse things that can happen like looking in and seeing the one
thing you should never find

they can spell the end a final resting place death by attrition
unless you're good at darning but can you darn the truth forever?
should you keep them as a badge of honour? emblazon them across
your body for all the world to see? like gunshot wounds ragged-
edged curling torn bleeding marks of how the world affects you

if you look in there is only one thing you should never find

out there where the ether stretches taut they are gravity wells sucking up
light space knowledge and you if you're not careful and there's one
thing you might see but you know that it's not real not a figment of
your imagination but rather an illusion elusive as an eel but more
confounding

they are a way in or out erotic the missing link a paradox you
can burn them into something but never sear them make them bigger
by removing pieces tear them without hurting them

without them there would be no showers sewing draining pasta sinks
fly screens nowhere to slot your disk no letter o no no's defence
lawyers could never win cases and you couldn't jump out of aeroplanes
put petrol in your car there are lots of things you couldn't do without
them

they are part of you filled with intangibles sorrow love
disappointment grief emotions easily labelled yet different for each of
us

and there's only one thing you should never find when looking in
that defines them but is never really there

one thing

nothing

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