
PHARMAKON

(A CASE HISTORY)

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"A text remains...forever imperceptible. Its laws and rules are not, however, harbored in the inaccessibility of a secret; it is simply that they can never be booked, in the *present*, into anything that could be rigorously called a perception."

—Jacques Derrida, "Plato's Pharmacy"

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1. Alone in the house, she felt too old for some trinkets pinned in velvet box.
 2. She began watching television to pass the time. Each frame seemed more colorful, even iridescent, when she closed her eyes at night.
 3. "His warmth began after. Now the kettle boils and shrieks. Soon I'll open a velvet box and find the gifts he's left behind: a withered corsage, a candy necklace, some photographs mounted in a book."
 4. *Attachment.*
 1. The act of attaching.
 2. The condition of being attached.
 - †3. A supplementary part; an accessory.
 - ‡4. An additional disclosure that is attached to the primary document.
 5. The legal seizure of property or a person.

⁵. The film (c. 1938) depicts the various suicides that took place within the lavish country estate. In every room, the empty fixture where a light one was.

⁶ "I had wanted to understand the architecture of this strange machine. His death was brought on by a system of pulleys, levers, and strings. Even after, the little gears keep turning."

⁷ She dusted each of the bottles with a dark green cloth, recorded their contents in a tiny ledger.

⁸. A letter, burned from the bottom up. The belaboured flourishes of his handwriting still visible through the smoke and ash.

⁹. "Now the lakeside mumbles with its slow music, the icicles striking against one another for warmth."

¹⁰. *Melancholia*. A state of mourning for the lost object.

¹¹. She went to light a candle at the church, but found that the tiny wick had been gutted from the wax.

¹³. "*You don't remember because you don't care.*" Sometimes my mother's voice swells and fills my forehead."

¹⁴. A late nineteenth-century stage play, in which the heroine was driven to madness by the many voices that inhabited her engraved fountain pen.