

FROM :

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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

AUTHOR ANNOUNCES MORTAL WORK OF ART

July 2003, Brooklyn, NY—Writer Shelley Jackson invites participants to collaborate on a new work entitled "Skin." Each participant must agree to have one word of a story tattooed upon his or her body. The text will be published nowhere else, and the author will not permit it to be summarized, quoted, described, set to music, or adapted for film, theater, television, or any other medium. The full text will be known only to participants, who may but need not choose to establish communication with one another. No requests for particular words or types of words (such as "interesting" or "short") can be considered. The words will be assigned in the strict sequence in which they appear in the story: The first applicant will receive the first word, the second will receive the second, and so on. In the event that an insufficient number of participants come forward in the author's lifetime to complete the first and only edition of the story, the incomplete version will be considered definitive. If no participants come forward, this call itself is the work.

Prospective participants should contact the author and explain their interest in the work. If they are accepted, they must sign a contract and a waiver releasing the author from any responsibility for health problems, body image disorders, job loss, or relationship difficulties that may result from the tattooing process. On receipt of the waiver, the author will reply with a registered letter specifying the word (or word plus punctuation mark) assigned to the participant. Participants must accept the word they are given, but they may choose the site of their tattoo, with the exception of words naming specific body parts, which may be anywhere but on the body part named. Tattoos must be in black ink and a classic book font. Words in fanciful fonts will be expunged from the work.

When the work has been completed, participants must send a signed and dated close-up photograph of the tattoo to the author, for verification only, and a portrait of the participant in which the tattoo is not visible, for possible publication. Participants will receive in return a signed and dated certificate confirming their participation in the work and verifying the authenticity of their word. The author retains copyright, though she contracts not to devalue the original work with subsequent editions, transcripts, or synopses. However, correspondence and other documentation pertaining to the work (with the exception of photographs of the words themselves) will be considered for publication.

From this time on, participants will be known as "words." They are not understood as carriers or agents of the texts they bear, but as its embodiments. As a result, injuries to the printed texts, such as dermabrasion, laser surgery, tattoo cover work, or the loss of body parts will not be considered alterations of the work. Only the death of words effaces them from the text. As words die, the story will change; when the last word dies, the story will also have died. The author will make every effort to attend the funerals of her words.

Interested parties may contact the author at shelley@drizzle.com