

EXTREME POSITIONS



bpNICHOL

5
EXTREME

POSITIONS

S

S S S S
S S S S
S S S S

**EXTREME
POSITIONS**

bpNichol

S S S S S S S S
S S S S S S S
S S S S S S S S
S S S S S S S
S S S S S S S S
S S S S S S S

S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S
S S

1

moon

owl

tree

path or road

stand

ing

tree

tree

tree

birds

moon

opening

hand

landing

star

star

cloud

land

lake

wind

wave

hand

wave

boat

empty

cloud

cloud

cloud

water

light

tree

lake

bush

road

me

bush

brush

sky

him

step house

field

window

chair

picture

you

her

eye

moon

tree

(adow)

shh

lake

wave

shore

sky

landing

boat

face

table

tree

chair

empty

2

moving

runs

sitting

scream

crying

laughs

will SHOUT
didn't SHOUT
should SHOUT
can't SHOUT

smile

gestures

stands up

looking

rowing

waves

laughing

smiles

sitting down

sat

cries or
(smile?)
wishes

for
get

for
got

3

yesterday's

colourful

bright

vio
lent
let

swift

bloody

vague

(ness
(ly
)

frighten

startled

(
ah)

(ha
zy)

4

running or sitting or
running while sitting or
running remembering sitting or
yes

everything at once
altogether
completely tangled up

rowing or sitting or
rowing while sitting or
rowing remembering
no

everything at once
altogether & forgotten
completely remembered
thrown out

sitting laughing

to sit & laugh

hands

laughing & sitting

seated laughing

hands

sitting & laughing &
laughing & laughing &
laughing & laughing &
seated laughing

laughing

will shout

(shouts)

didn't shout

(shouted)

can't shout

(wants to shout)

shouts out

(should shout)

shh

wave

wave

wave

boat

wave

wave

wave

wave

happy & sad laughing
remembered laughing hysterical

hysterical sad laughing &
remembered laughing happy

waves

remembered laughing laughing &
sad hysterical happy

remembered & hysterical
laughing laughing happy
 sad

sitting or standing
standing or
sitting
sitting or
standing

gestures &

sitting

sitting or
standing or
standing sitting or
sitting standing &

gestures

the bright boat in
the bright sun on
the bright water in
the bright light in
the eye

in the light
in the water
in the sun
in the boat in
the bright bright bright bright

table fork table plate table knife table

moon or sun

sun's moon

ing sunny &

moon's sun

sun's moon

y sunning &

moon's sun

sun or moon

table plate sun fork table knife plate table moon

shadowy shadow
shadowed shadowing
shadows shade
shedding shed
shys shaded
shift

road
lake
road
road
lake
road
road
road
lake
road
road
road
lake
rowing

5

why

why not

not why
but why
but not why
not why not but why

why & how

how why

but how
not why

not how but why

how why but not how

how & why

grief

three of them

of two of us &

two them
of us of them

two

three

no

yes

no

no

yes

yes

no

no

no

yes

yes

yes

noyes

noise

an accusation

accusing

(accused)

accustomed as

“unaccustomed as”

accusatory

(a customary)

costumed

accusingly

consuming

runs

stops

runs & runs

stops

runs & runs & runs

stops

runs & runs & runs & runs

stops

stops

oon

like a lock a lac un like a luck y leak a lack a lake

m

grieving

stands by the lake
sits at the table
walks down the road
runs down the road
gets up from the table
stands in the lake
rows the boat
rows the bo
rows the bo
rows the b
rows the
ows the
ws the
s the
the
th
t

hand
wave
head
wave
hand
wave
wave
wave
head
wave
wave
wave
wave
wave
wave
wave
wave
wave

the moon rises
the moon sets
the sun rises
the sun sets
the moon rises
the sun rises
the moon sets
the sun sets

back.

back & forth &

rocking.

forth &

rock.

lake.

ing.

row.

& back &
forth forth.
back & back &
back & forth &
back.

back.

6

two
times
two two twos

time

two twos
to two

(to

everything multiplied
once by itself
multiplied itself by everything
one multiple
everything

by itself

pardon me pardon
me pardon me

yes

me forgive me
forgive me forgive

yes

you can you
can you can

yes

thank you thank
you thank you

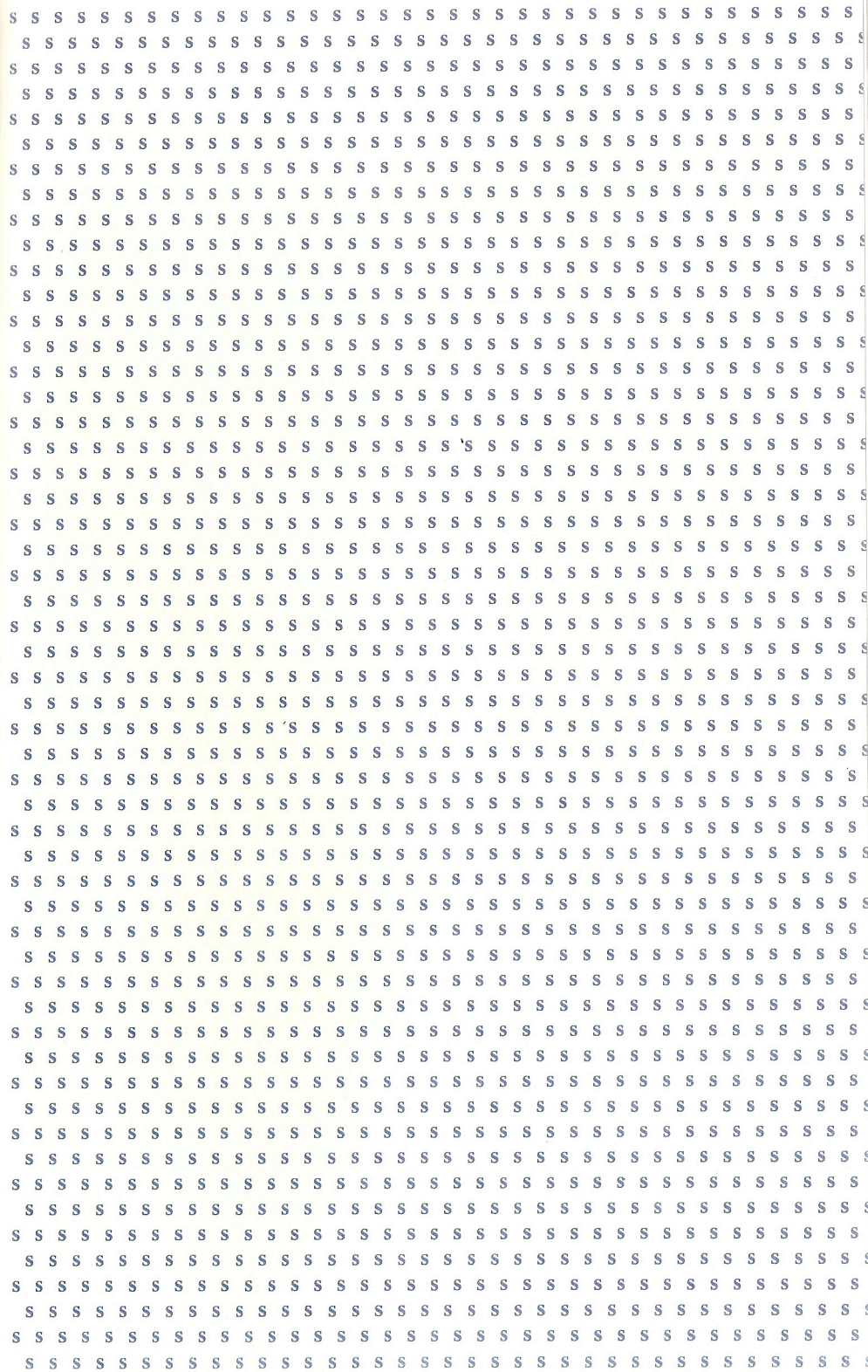
a
l a k e
a
l a n e
a
l i n e
a
l o n e

a
w a v e
a
w e a v e
e v e n i n g
n i n e
w a v e s
a
w e a v i n g

boat afloat
like a lake
like an empty lake
 an empty boat
afloat

 wave
 wave wave
 wave wife wave
wave wave wave wave
wave wavewave wave
wavec wavweave wwave
wave wawvaeve wave
wwavve wwaavvee wwavee
wave wwaavvee wave
waave wawvaeve wavve
wave wavweave wave
wwave wavewave wavec
wave wave wave wave
 wave wife wave
 wave wave
 wave

waves





EXTREME POSITIONS, bpNichol's fourth published novel, uses the techniques of visual poetry to tell the extended tale of a ménage à trois. In a series of quick word stills the stilted violence unwinds as seen from the viewpoint of a terrified, distant, almost peripheral narrator/witness.

bpNichol was born in Vancouver in 1944 and now lives in Toronto. His previous novels are *Two Novels* (Coach House Press, 1968) & *Journal* (CHP 1978). He is also the author of two collections of short prose texts, *Nights on Prose Mountain*, (grOnk, 1969) & *Craft Dinner* (Aya Press, 1978), as well as numerous books of poetry including *The Martyrology* (Bk I & II, CHP 1972), Bk III & IV, CHP 1976), *LOVE: A Book of Remembrances* (Talonbooks, 1972) & *ZYGAL* (CHP 1981). His selected writings, *AS ELECTED*, appeared from Talonbooks in the winter of 1981.

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