

## Running Order of Poems

Uma's Sestina

Uma's Villanelle

Uma's Stevens (on) Thirteen Ways Of Looking At Uma (upcycling Wallace Stevens)

Blackout Poetry Sequence: UMA Remediated

### Uma's Sestina

I

Falesá's bosoming beach  
brings beachcombers and men who trade  
in desire, sugar, cacao and vows.  
When fleshly wants have no mask  
Wiltshire signs his integrity over for Uma,  
dumb to her taboo.

II

It's Case's business to sell taboo  
to villagers who, like stranded whales beached,  
are bloated by lies buzzing around Uma.  
Wiltshire opens his store for trade  
to empty air. People fear illuminated masks  
and Aeolian harps: *We keep away!* they vow.

III

In their sunlit fale, Wiltshire's false vow  
burns a hole in his truth, once taboo.  
Falling for Uma, he lifts his own mask  
and for a second time, on a beach,  
is missionary married, setting another trade:  
Love for lust; Mrs Wiltshire for Uma.

IV

Fa'avao, maligned mother of Uma,  
helps keep her daughter's vow  
to her husband and their fledgling trade.  
She warns of spying Black Jack's taboo  
ways and when seeing him flee from fale to beach,  
Case's conspiracy is unmasked.

## V

Husband and wife plot to remove the mask  
of Ese, who 'belong tiapolo' says Uma.  
In darkness Wiltshire crosses Black Beach,  
surrendering fear to his vow  
to expose Case's sham taboo  
and his dishonourable trade.

## VI

A lit match then dynamite explodes Case's trade  
in haunting harps and luminous masks,  
Case's malevolent pantomime of taboo.  
Brave Uma  
warns Wiltshire of Case's vow  
to shoot at all costs above Black Beach.

Case's fabricated taboo, proof of his ill-gotten trade  
erupts above Black Beach, blasting apart his false masks.  
And yet, Case bequeaths everything to his own 'Uma', surprising all by the honour of his  
vow.

## Uma's Villanelle

I fish all day in waters deep and blue  
A man has come, not devilish like Case  
I loved a man and we became taboo

I will not drown in salty tears that brew  
My back is bent but not my upraised face  
I fish all day in waters deep and blue

Wiltshire is good, there's marriage papers too  
'Aute, 'ie toga: my wedding lace  
I loved a man and we became taboo

Pink coral reefs of love in our hearts grew  
Next to me he took his husbandly place  
I fish all day in waters deep and blue

Anoint the mats with moso'oi perfume  
marital bliss removes all my disgrace  
I loved a man and we became taboo

Through years and babes our love has proven true  
He worries for them, each pale cacao face  
I fish all day in waters deep and blue  
I loved a man and we became taboo.

'Aute – hibiscus

'ie toga – fine pandanus mats used in ceremonial exchanges such as weddings and funerals

moso'oi – ylang ylang

## Uma's Stevens (on) Thirteen Ways Of Looking At Uma (upcycling Wallace Stevens)

I

Among Falesá sands,  
The only moving thing  
Were the eyes of Uma.

II

Uma was of one mind.  
Like a net  
In which there are three fishes.

III

Wiltshire whirled in the tropical heat.  
He was a fish in Uma's net.

IV

Uma and Wiltshire  
Are one.  
Uma and Wiltshire and a piece of paper  
Are one.

V

She knows exactly what to prefer,  
The black beauty of a witness  
And whistling ink on paper,  
The innuendo of marriage  
And just after.

VI

Pandanus filled the airy fale  
In comely shade.  
The figure of Wiltshire  
Crossed it, to and fro.  
His deception  
Traced love's shadow:  
A dependent clause.

VII

O pale men of Europe,  
Why do you imagine yourselves golden?  
Do you not see how island goddesses  
Waft around the feet  
Of the men about you?

VIII

Wiltshire claims noble accents  
and inescapable kuikui guilt;  
But I know, too,  
That Uma is involved  
In what he knows.

IX

When Uma flew out of sight,  
She marked the edge  
Of Wiltshire's sacred circle.

X

At the sight of Uma  
Wiltshire flies into blue light,  
Even the clowns of fale aitu  
Would slap their thighs sharply.

XI

Wiltshire strode over Falesá  
White shirt, black boots.  
Once, a fear pierced him,  
In that he mistook  
Case's Aeolian harp  
For ghostly song.

XII

The taboo is moving.  
Uma must be flying.

XIII

It was hot all afternoon.  
It was raining.  
And it was going to rain.  
Uma is enthroned

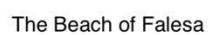
On Wiltshire's lap.

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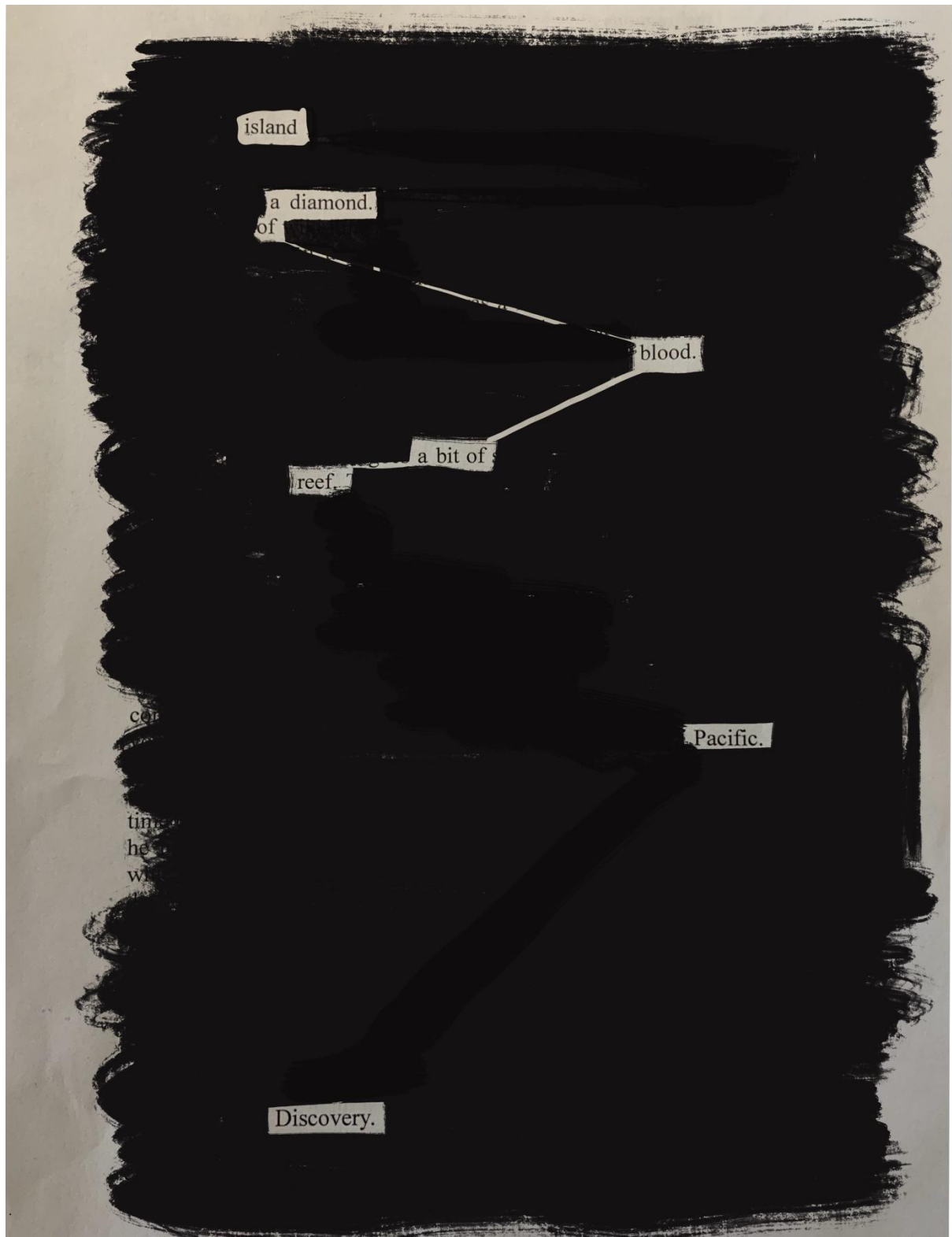
Kuikui: sea urchin

Fale aitu: house of spirits, refers to the subversive ritual of Samoan clowning

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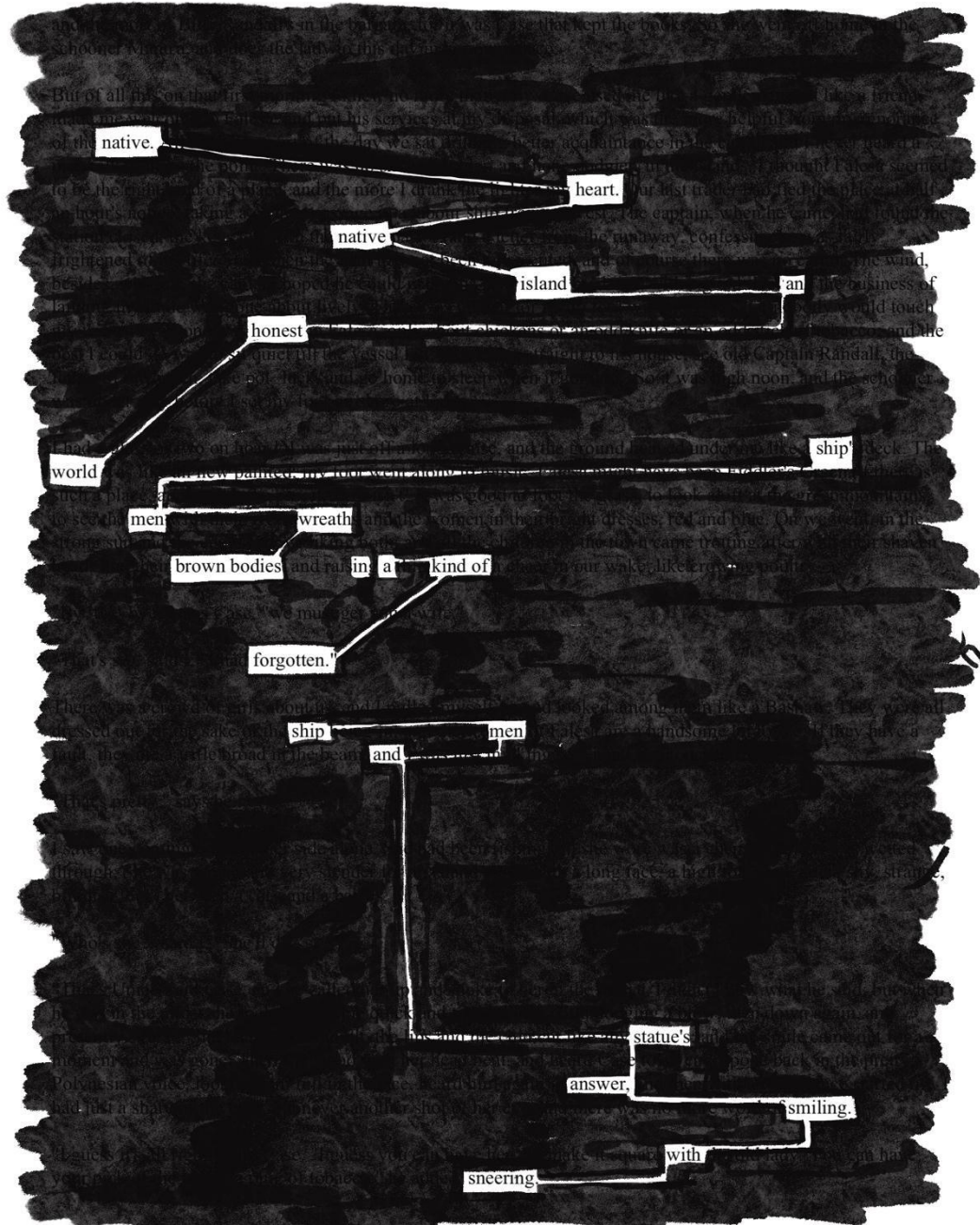


## Chapter I: A South Sea Bridal



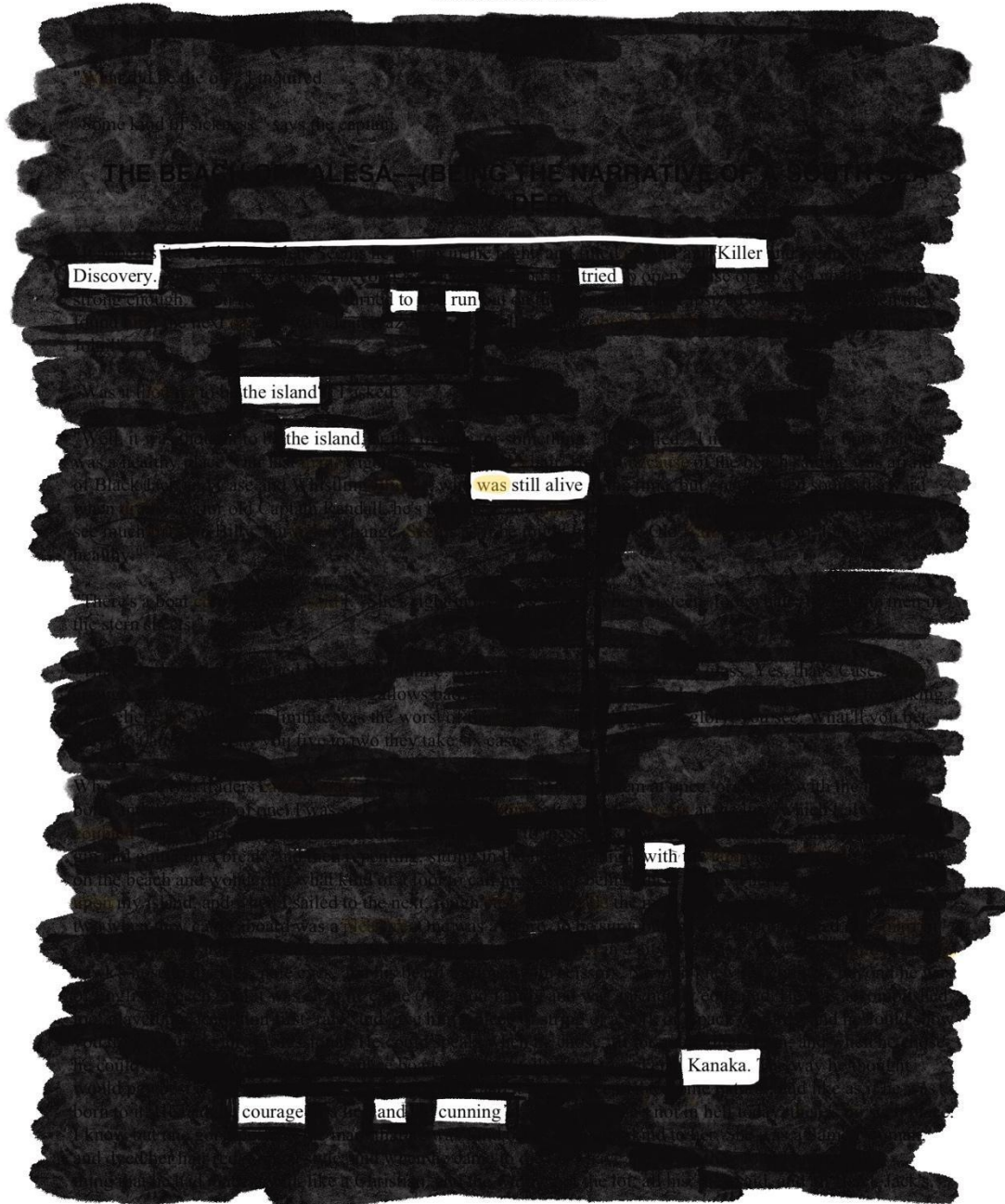
Page Beginning: 'But all of this, on that first morning, I know not a fly.'

The Beach of Falesa

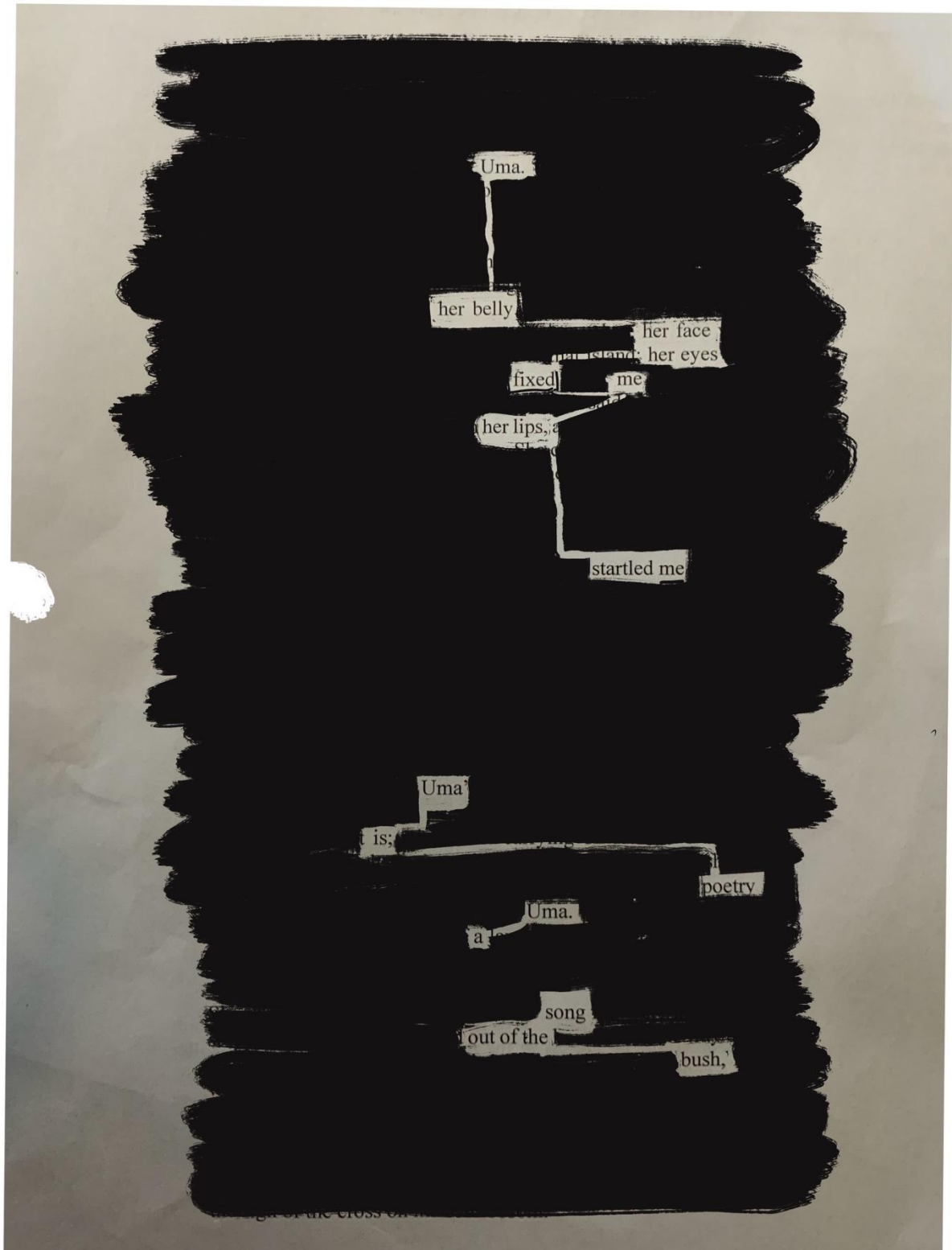


Page Beginning: 'It appears it took him sudden'

The Beach of Falesa



Page Beginning: '...that remains of man, his tongue stumbling'



## Chapter I: A South Sea Bridal

natives

don't know why

whites

filled up on

discovery