

Prompt: From the Author: How do blank spaces, emptiness, and reservation function in the essay. What's left unsaid? Is it okay not to know everything as a reader? How do you know what information to withhold and what information to share in a piece of personal writing?

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In the interest of being brutally honest, I found my mind wandering throughout the entire time I read this piece. Usually I would explain this as me just being bored as I was reading, but with this piece, it was entirely the opposite. Every question that was left unanswered by Leaf was one that I immediately started churning around in my head. Each new idea and thought that she shared in this essay was added to the cacophonous tornado swirling around in my head as I read. It was a new experience, and instead of coming away from this piece with a clear idea of what I had read, I'm left almost entirely with my own thoughts about what I read. Yet, as soon as I try to reflect on it, the ideas and story points from the essay are as clear as day in my mind. And leaving so many thoughts unfinished, ideas unsaid, and spaces on the page empty is why I had what can only be described as a spiritual experience reading this essay. If Leaf had instead said everything she wanted to say with this essay. I think it would have been very easy for her to tell the story of how depression affected her, but it would have felt like someone explaining an experience they had. By not saying everything, I threw all of my own issues onto the page instead and was able to meditate on my own life while reading about someone else's.