

sooner or later
somewhere in the house a conversation
begins about what is inside it
 what is there
 and what is not there.
 what is not there is
 easier not to identify.
 just about everything can be not there.

for those who do not have the not there
 inside the house
 there are storage issues
 old world wounds
 devils that leap out
 bad purchases
 worn out
 worn down
 irreplacables
 emotions collecting dust
 dumping ground collectibles
 various shames
 blue ribbon victory fade away
 the once was
 not agains
 life forms
 in the bathrooms of
 mirrors without lights
 ancestral portraits of taboo ghosts
 canonical libraries with cannibalizing worms
 backgrounds of gossip

artless objects of art
discarded threshold values
bedroom injustices
mounted heads from the sacred herd
birth banners
outstanding warrants
rooms for experimental behavior
homicidal saints
dead end staircases
behavioral disorders in bathtubs.

the theres
have this
but the not theres
have more...
they have denials.
At least they have them as long
 as they can
 hold on to them
 and no incriminating evidence
 is introduced.

everyone should try to avoid seeing everything
all at once
the theres
and the not theres
 form the parallel lines of spooky entanglement
 with the things that get lost in the couch
 and are remembered in prayers.

maybe you just put up
a for sale sign
and leave the
furnishings
behind

with the not there aunt in the attic

playing with her strange toys
and homeopathic accusations

or consider burning the house down

to be done

with it

for the insurance

of there

and not there

expanding the world of false claims

claiming reality.

sooner or later.

wf.h.

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