SKETCH
OF THE HUMAN BODY

by
PAUL NOUGE

adapted for group reading
of up to 26 voices for stereo radio by
RICHARD FRANCIS

LEFT CHANNEL	CENTER	RIGHT CHANNEL
	(voice 1:) THE CHEST opens on the burning cross of the heart	
		(voice 2:) THE SKIN sensitive as precious as the eye
	(voice 3:) THE HEAD and its hair of red nerves	
		(voice 4:) THE ARTERIES always stretched out into discord
	(voice 5:) THE LUNGS the sky's apples of air all filled up take us along	
(voice 6:) THE LEGS agile clairvoyant come to meet us		

(voice 7:)
THE VERTEBRAL WATER
is more limpid
than the eyes'
water

(voice 8:)
THE HAIR
and the eyelashes
want
not to meet

(voice 9:)
THE LIPS
the cheeks
the gums
and the teeth
the NECK
bears them up

(voice 10:)
THE TEMPLES
the legs
phosphorous
and iron

(voice 11:)
OUR BODY
proposes
an algebra
which has
no solution

(voice 12:)
                                                            THE TOOTH
                                                            that you drill
                                                            gets warm
                                                            so quickly
                                                            that you have to,
                                                            while it's worked on,
                                                            cool it off
                                                            with a thin
                                                            iced
                                                            stream of water

                              (voice 13:)
                              Holding on
                              to the wall,
                              the NAILS
                              fold back

(voice 14:)
THE WORDS
of your body
go to your
head

                              (voice 15:)
                              A thin
                              stream of
                              blood
                              waters
                              each word

(voice 16:)
THE ATTENTION
caught
right on the tips
of your fingers
flowers
with sparks
at your least
signs

(voice 17:)
BUT
at the bottom
of the
RED FLESH
there is moving
a delicate
agile
SKELETON
of light

(voice 18:)
THE WINGED BONES
quicker
than
blood

(voice 19:)
A FULL BASKET
of blue
viscera

(voice 20:)
THE SHOULDERS
the arms
and the
hands
over the
red breasts
of love

(voice 21:)
THE DARK
and hot
flesh,
gleaming white
secretes
into the silence
our purest
thoughts

5

(voice 22:)
THE NAILS ON END
and the ear attentive
anything
can happen

                              (voice 23:)
                               YOUR
                            sleeping body
                                its
                              furthest
                              its most
                               secret
                              DEPTH

                         OPEN YOUR EYES
                           LEAN OVER
                             on this
                              SIGN

                               HOT
                             filled up
                               the
                              VEINS
                            are easily
                            sliced open

                                            (voice 24:)
                                          THE WOUNDED EYE
                                              bleeds
                                              all its
                                              images

                              (voice 25:)
                             BEAUTIFUL
                             DELICATE
                               HAND
                             PIERCED
                               WITH
                              NAILS

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GREAT WHITE FORMS

a people of humans and birds

live in
your
tongue