

Liam O'Brien
Found Stories

(fragments from The Complete Home, Julia McNair Wright, 1879)

Children will see:
 as they go on
they will skim
 over years:
a little child
 indestructible:
the impossible
 inheritance
of childhood

children cannot be
 what we are:
they have their own
 powers. How
can you marvel:
 he had a right
to know, raised
 to life. Who came
to himself:
 to-morrow,
a restlessness
 to the heart

what tender love kept
 in a birch box:
passed on
 without being conscious
of division:
 his testimony,
first-love. Now,
 all common things become
uncommon and enchanted

found stories:
 lives of force and fire—
unknown, tender
 without being reduced
to grow older
 to birds, flowers, shells—
out of a private horror
 as he wanted
he took connection
 astounded, glad:
gave him a fondness
 the making of him