The Book / Or / The Woods

Jeff T. Johnson

Published by Punctum Books

T. Johnson, Jeff.
The Book / Or / The Woods.

👉 For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/84310

🔗 For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2924492
Origin Story
*The Book / Or / The Woods* is a serial work that thinks about seriality. It began as the dramatization of a struggle between writer & book, where the book wanted to be an independent entity & the writer wanted to impress a critical & aesthetic agenda on the book. The book wanted to recede from any worldly engagement & be self-contained, but this proved (from the outset, really) to be impossible. Furthermore, it turns out perhaps it was the writer who wanted to hide, in the book or the woods or both. Though the book could not have what it wanted, it still managed to push the writer out of the woods. So the first book, where that conflict played out, was exiled to the end of the collection, & what became the main cycle, the three books named in the title of the collection, took center stage (which is, after all, made of wood, or paper, much like the forest). As for the woods &/or the forest, they are distinct entities, just as they are distinct words, but there is some overlap, & some uncertainty about how they are distinct. Y the monster came to inhabit the woods but was no doubt there all along, an animating spirit, just as the shadows (& shades) were always there. There has been no attempt to make a realistic woods, though the woods are real. Real, but made of paper: much like a book.