IV · NUSS PASS WORD POEM SYNC.ED

1. 123456
2. 123456789
3. 12345

50. iloveyou

I trust my computer
we sleep together on the 1207. beach
we dream as the sun sets
and the night begins
of homepages and 3569. passwords
that 2519. iforgot
long ago

37. trustno1

I can not trust the politicians
   I can not trust the doctors
I can not trust my roommate
        I can not trust the `2328. world`   outside
        I can not trust my `576. friends`
        I can not trust my `534. family`
           I can not trust `2599. myself`
              I can not `6361. trust`   God

71. 11111111
72. 131313
73. freedom
74. 777777

There is a leak in the sky
                  a hole in 2786. reality
             in language
There are only so many words to describe my feelings
           I am going to shoot a
                     2200. stranger

49. sunshine
50. iloveyou
51. fuckme

There is a secret language
   that only we two know
         we don't need to 3336. whisper
   we don't even neet to talk
      no words, just you 1192. looking
                                    at me
         with those
                  2887. funny
                                    eyes

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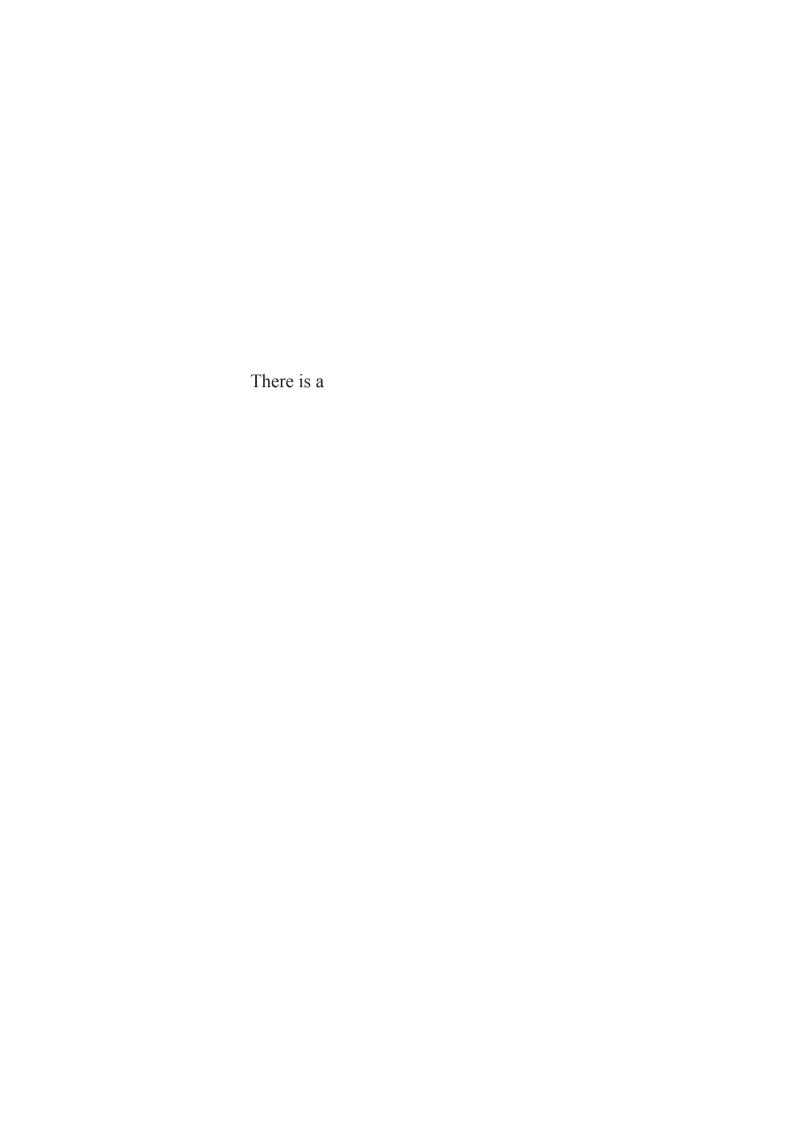
496. loveme

689. asdefg
690. security

(...)

1788. geheim

720. loveyou
721. kitty
722. kelly
723. veronica
724. suzuki
725. semperfi
726. penguin
727. mercury
728. liberty
729. spirit
730. scotland
731. natalie
732. marley
733. vikings
734. system
735. sucker
736. king
737. allison
738. marshall

(...)

776. infinity

929. changeme

I hate myself
I want to be someone else
I want to be pretty
I want to be nice
I want to be kind
I can not change myself
I guess that's 1563. justme
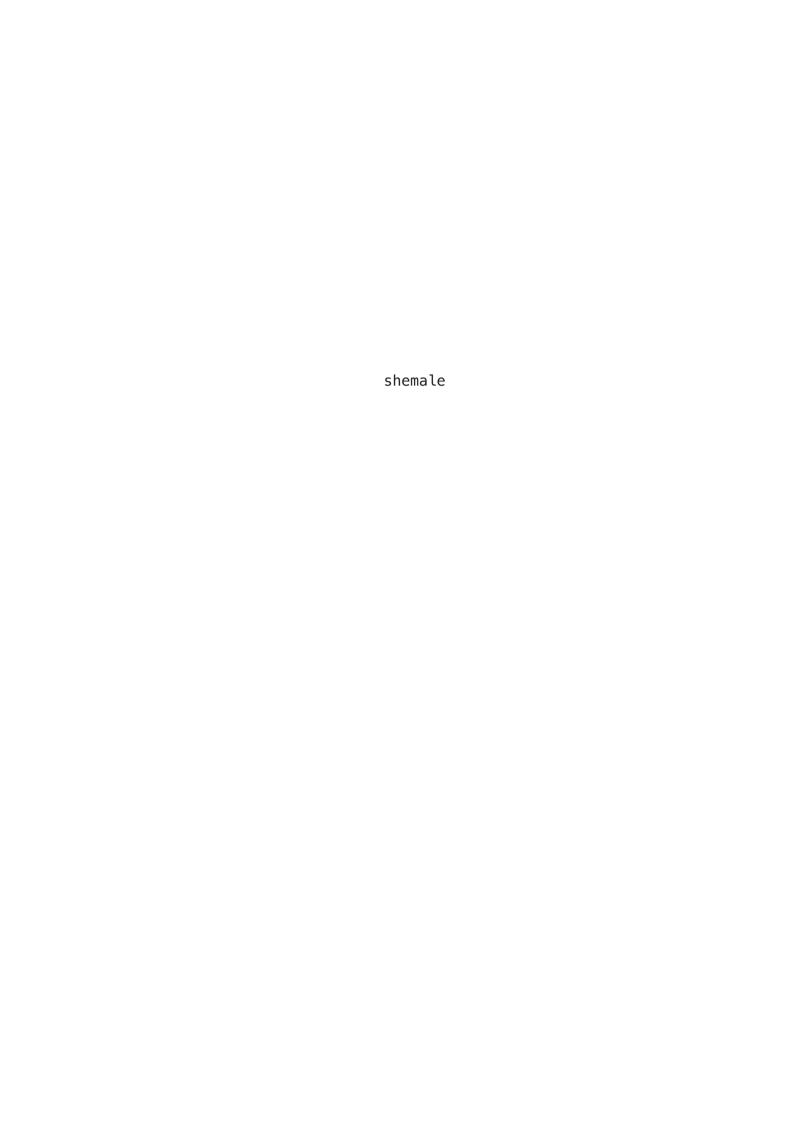
There is a

2734. life
2735. hidden

2064. showme

1497. wonder
1498. wetpussy

1499. subaru

2331.

shemale

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2513. letsgo
2514. josh
2515. jimbob
2516. jombo
2517. janine



(...)







2519. iforgot
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2548.        veritas
2549.        spankme
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2685. monopoly
2686. lick
2687. infiniti
2688. goodbye

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3017. unknown
3018. truelove
  16. letmein
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50. iloveyou

2790. ihateyou
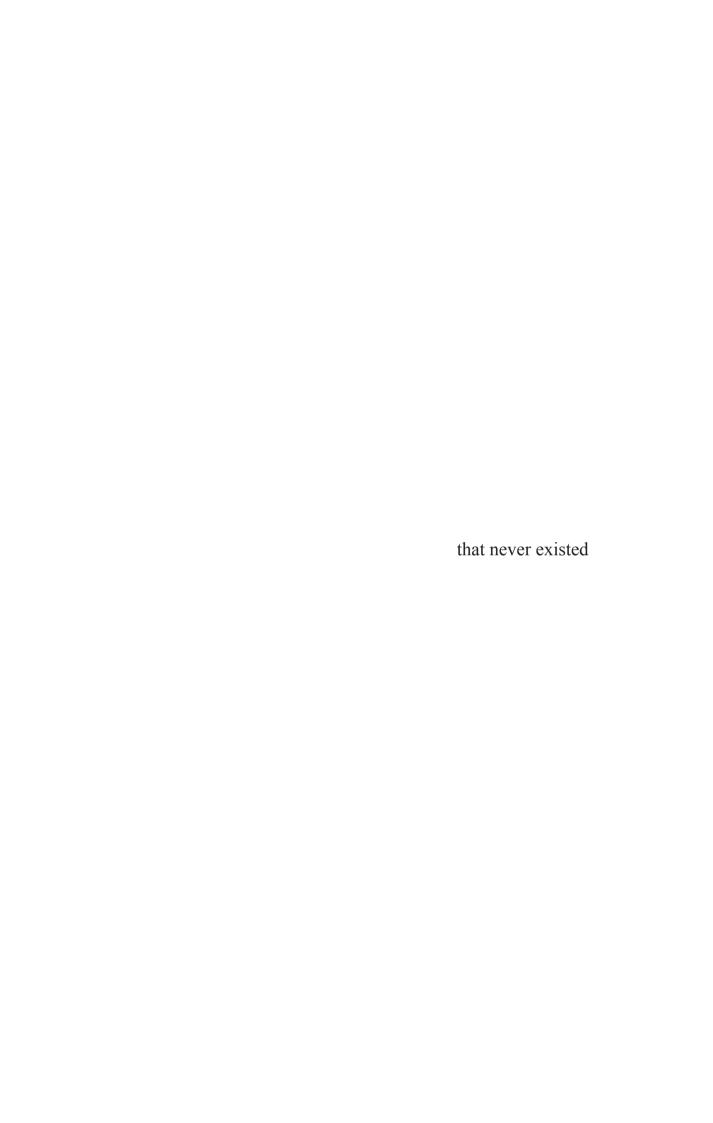
I want to 2079. delete
everything I have ever posted
everything I know
everything
and disappear
a
3189. memory

that never existed

27. pussy

```
Type and Enter. On Password Poetry
Andreas Bülhoff
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Passwords are words of power. They grant access i.e. they are a tool to manage authority. This was true in pre-digital times but even more so in a world where every aspect of our lifes is filtered through digital technology, in which power materializes in infrastructure and code based on strings of characters. In digital technologies, passwords are part of a system's architecture. They are the main tool to identify users, trying to guarantee that a person that logs in is the same person that logged in yesterday. Are you the same person? Passwords therefore are carriers of identity.

The poetry in IV Nuss' Pass Word Poem is based on a list of 10 million passwords compiled from multiple security breaches over the years and listed by frequency on SecLists. Such lists form the basis for dictionary attacks i.e. breaking into a system by systematically and algorithmically entering every word in a dictionary, or word list, as password to enter a protected system. Lists like this are used for hacking or penetration testing to bypass or improve security measures.

IV searched the list for words she could use to create found poems or as a constrained dictionary for a poetic attack: a post-conceptual way to write with and write against words of a mechanistic language. By keeping every number in front of the respective word as a marker to its frequency of use, Pass Word Poem also reflects on the sociocultural aspects of this language shaped by technology.

Passwords on the list are at the same time intersubjectively public and subjectively private, a leak of human behavior forming cultural history. They are also giving a glimpse at tacit knowledge made privately explicit in trying to protect with and memorize a word. These two functions, protecting and memorizing, are the poles by which strong or weak passwords might be categorized. The weaker the password, the more it is part of everyday language. The weaker the password, the more people use it. Strong passwords on the other hand try not to be words at all but seek to differ, to become a seemingly arbitrary string of characters.

The passwords used in these poems are no strong passwords at all. They are the leaked failures of humans trying to fulfill machinic demands. Or: they are the leaked failures of humans trying to fulfill a mechanized demand trying to protect them from themselves. Or: they are the leaked proof that password generation needs to be mechanized in order to keep up with the machinic demands of protection. For the passwords in these poems are strings of characters that multiple humans have used. That means they are a security risk. But it also means they connect those that used them, a connection where identities mingle and shift. Are we the same person? These passwords therefore are carriers of a collective identity.

Weak passwords fall back on context memorability but also on the structure of a keyboard. These cyborg words emphasize access over their careless protection. They are vulnerable words, that try to commensurate in order to participate, words that inspire, words IV encourages to branch out into poetry. If, as Baudrillard writes, passwords "describe quite well a quasi-initiatory way of getting inside things, without, however, drawing up a list", Pass Word Poem celebrates quite the opposite. Misusing a brute-forcing list, these poems do not try to enter but to escape: a soft attack of words to pull out of a system instead of penetrating it.

Except for strong or weak, Pass Word Poem celebrates the soft password. Words that seem elastic as they spark another text, morph into something else (cf. Baudrillard again, this time for reassurance). This is poetry conditioned by security, or, more accurate, the complete loss of it, favoring the function of memorizing over the function of protection. Poetry that tangles around sediments of security requirements, technological affordances forced on users and users refusing to cooperate, users that found inaccurately accurate sequences of characters i.e. words. This is poetic practice in a nutshell: safewords to move out of sociocultural boundaries leaving room to imagine something else, something interconnected, transgressive.

Say now Shibboleth: and he said Shebboleth.

IV Nuss
Pass Word Poem
/w an afterword by
Andreas Bülhoff
sync edition
2024