



Prompt 1

Write a passage using the 'narrative friction' of two elements that tug against one another, like the forces of life and death in Mansfield's 'The Daughters of the Late Colonel'. In this story, the father of two sister's presence lingers long after he has passed away, as Alison MacLeod demonstrates with the following quote from Mansfield's story:

"What would Father say when he found out? For he was bound to find out sooner or later. He always did. 'Buried. You two girls had me buried!' [...] Oh, what would they say?"



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Prompt 2

Alison MacLeod says that Katherine Mansfield's stories 'plunge' us in. Begin a story, as Mansfield does, from a world already in motion. Start with a sentence such as "The week after...", "Very early morning..." or "And after all..." and see where it takes you.



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Prompt 3

MacLeod writes in her *Morphologies* essay that "Mansfield often describes her 'philosophy', in life and in her writing, as 'the defeat of the personal'... 'One must,' she writes, 'learn, one must practise to forget oneself... When I write about ducks I swear that I am a white duck'".

Try and write from the point of view of a character with what Mansfield called this 'surrender'. If you're writing Natasha, become Natasha.



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Prompt 4

Write your own version of Mansfield's "white, terrifying blancmange". Take an inanimate object and make it as animate as you possibly can.

Other Mansfield examples that MacLeod gives are "A big corpse of a clock" and his "lovely, frightening mouth".



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