

**Every Time You Close Your Eyes**

**Pulling The Trigger: Writing in the Aftermath**

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## **Abstract**

*Every Time You Close Your Eyes* is a long poem set in New York City during two major power cuts in 1977 and 2003. The poem explores ways in which people find connections with each other during the aftermath of a trigger, or a disaster. The poem deals with issues of both real and imagined fear and the way the culture and society of New York changed dramatically between both periods of time.

The accompanying exegesis examines the way Ian McEwan and Haruki Murakami use triggers to reveal the state of the world in which their characters live. It contains interviews with two New Yorkers who experienced both power cuts and includes discussions of major activators such as disasters as well as smaller triggers such as a song. The exegesis also includes a discussion of my own creative and research processes as these relate to the development of the poem.

## **Declaration**

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