

a play in four parts
by dakota parobek

the play begins

having begun, it continues

and goes on continuing

until it goes away

details are offered

which clarify new information

significance is disclosed

until nothing else happens

there can be a curtain

there can be a set

there can be other things too

that can be enough

the play begins

characters are introduced

they enact the gestures they were always going to enact

and end where they were always going to end

the play begins

a series of events, one after the other

and then we all clap

and then we go home, of course

the play begins

does its neat tricks

little things in the periphery

that was nice, we all say



let's try this again

the play starts

and just look at it go!

the play does a backflip

woah! look out!

the play starts

and knocks over the desserts

the play does a backflip

okay, we get it

the play begins

patience wains

the play begins

hello! says the play

but there is no one there

where'd we all go?

the play begins! :D

the play does a backflip?

the play is here! says the play

hello? says the play

where is everyone? says the play

the play looks over there

the play begins!

and?

i thought you should know

can you, like, stop looking at me?

the play begins

keeps going i guess

dragging its heels to an subsequent moment

ends inoffensively, albeit...tenuous

the play begins

goes about its routine

flourishes here and there

oh, i guess it's over

the play begins

resumes its continuing

dances irreverently

some details, memorable

the play begins

getting the hang of it now

really showing its stuff

now, *this* is what we like to see!

the play begins

is that music?

music *and* dancing?

the play ends too soon! far too soon!

the play begins

and goes on some more

yeah, that's...it sure can dance

what time is it? we all say, too loud

the play begins

but never really stopped

so it never really began again

i think that's enough

the play begins

offers information

no thank you, we all say

no, that's quite alright, we all say

the play begins

witholds information?

now, we don't like that at all!

guilty, the play ends

the play begins

and things progress

go along smoothly

and end without incident



the play begins

don't worry

this will all be covered
before you know it

the play begins

crudely, clumsily, tactlessly, but begins all the same

no dancing this time

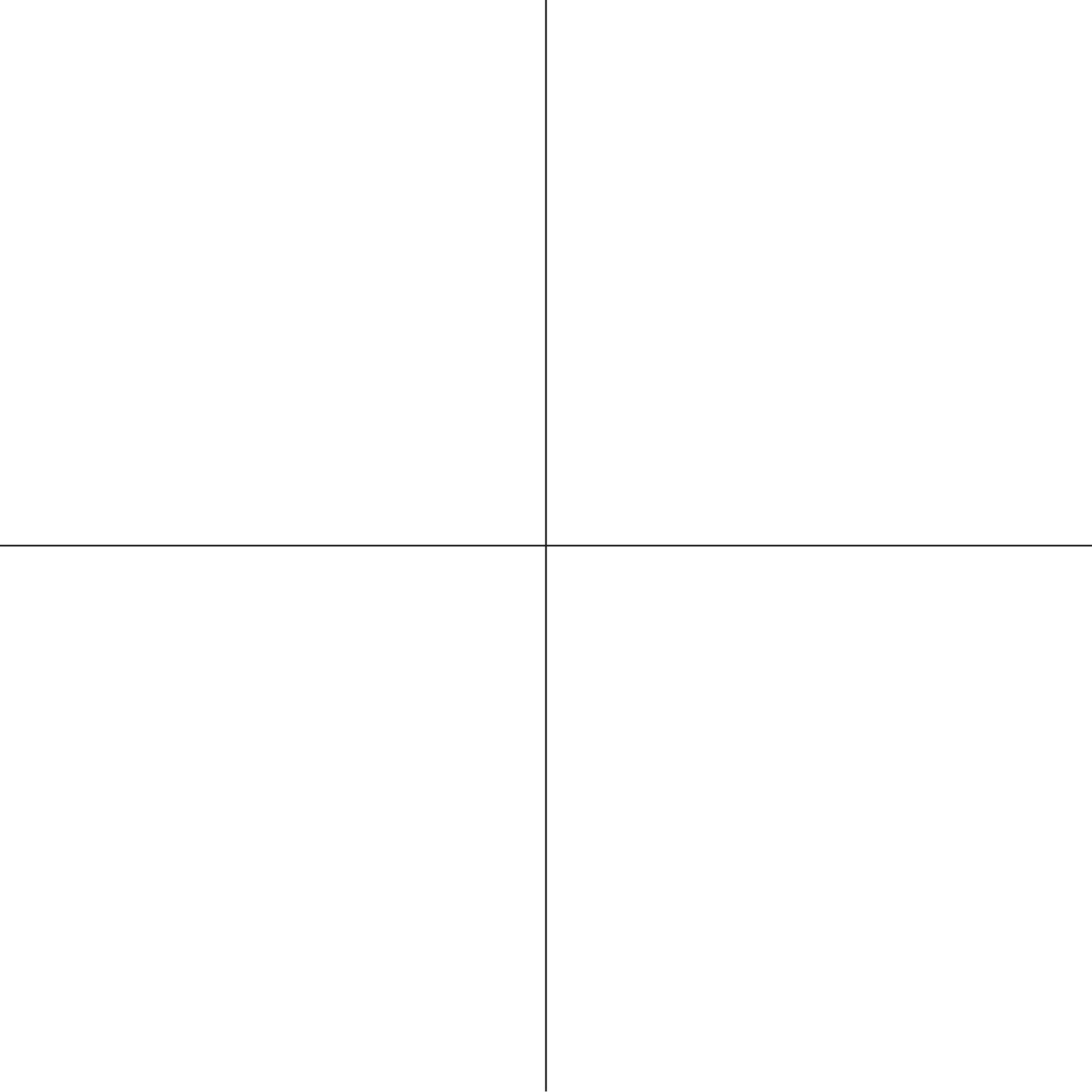
well, this is hardly a play at all

the play begins

to begin

but thinks better of it

decides to have never begun at all



okay...

maybe it begins...

...but just a little bit ;)

the play begins

does a little bit of this over here

little bit over here

oh...so it's one of *these* again...

the play begins!

to great fanfare!

wow, look over there!

delightful!

the play begins

to develop the sense of an inevitable something

an inevitable something that will happen, i'm sure

i'm sure it will happen, it's inevitable, after all

the play wakes up

there is no great fanfare

wow, look over there!
not this.

delightful!
don't even think about it.

the play resigns to begin

slumps into a progression of events

accrues meaning through language, sure

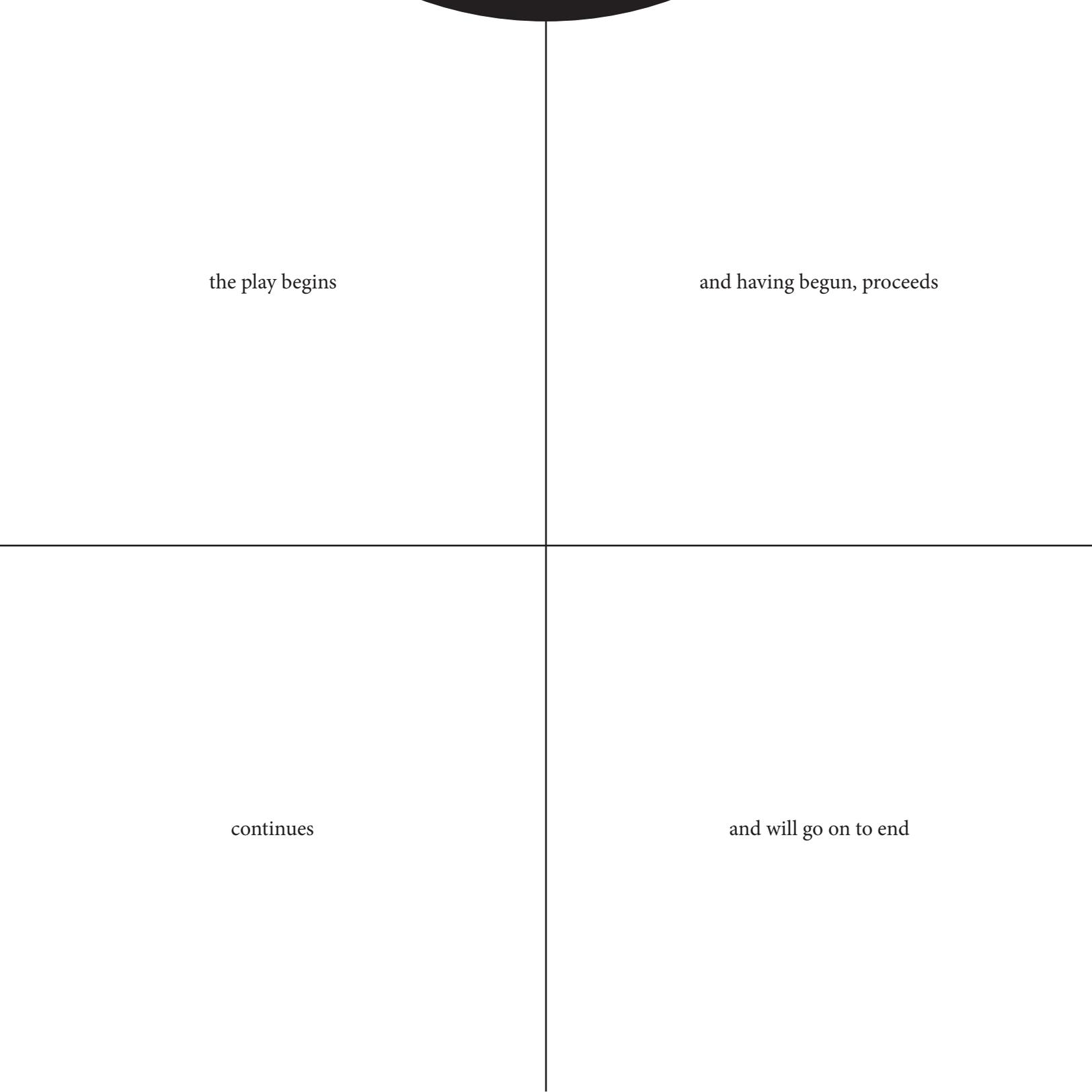
and does so until things are sufficiently different

does the play have to begin?

there's already so many

they've got their own things going on

doing stupid tricks forever

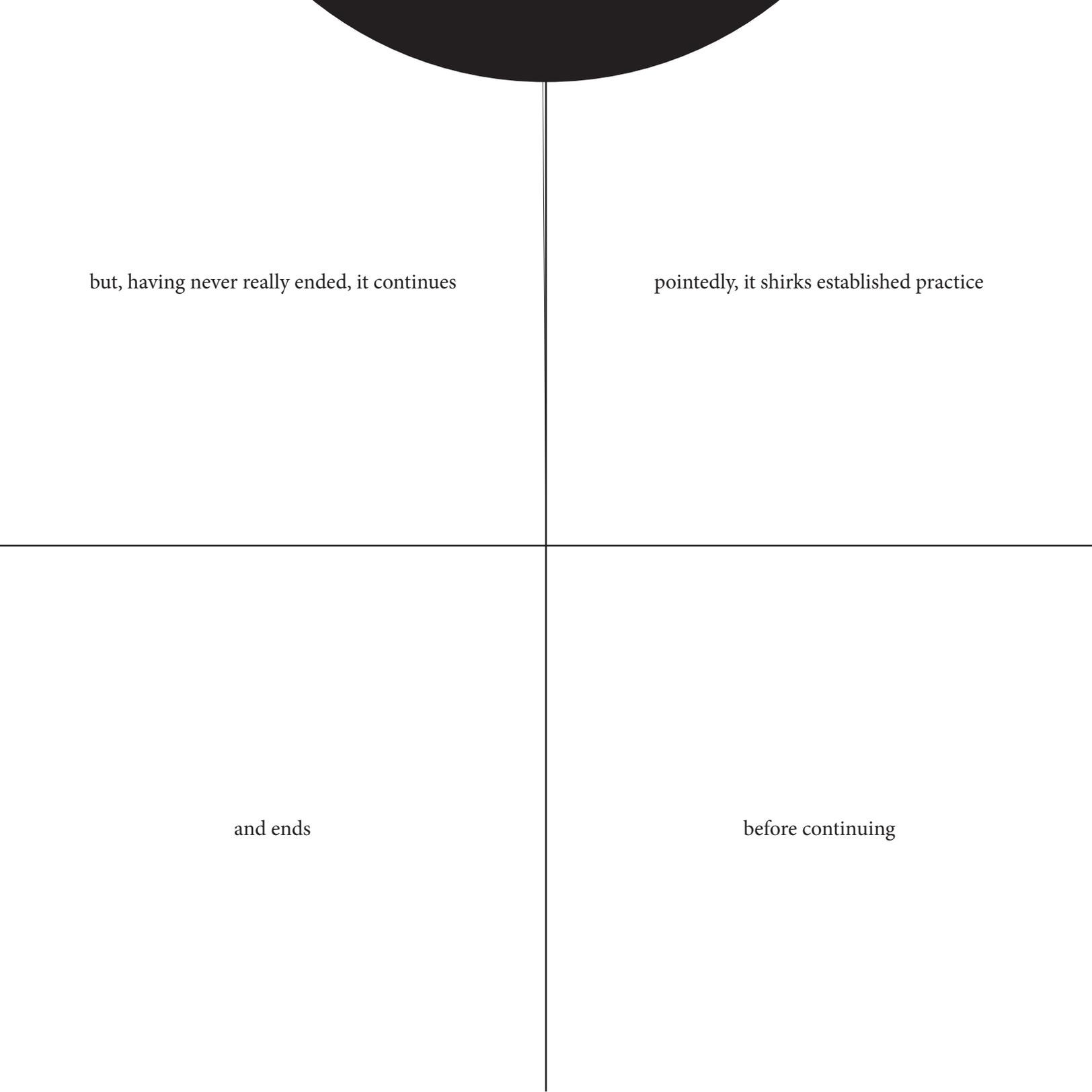


the play begins

and having begun, proceeds

continues

and will go on to end

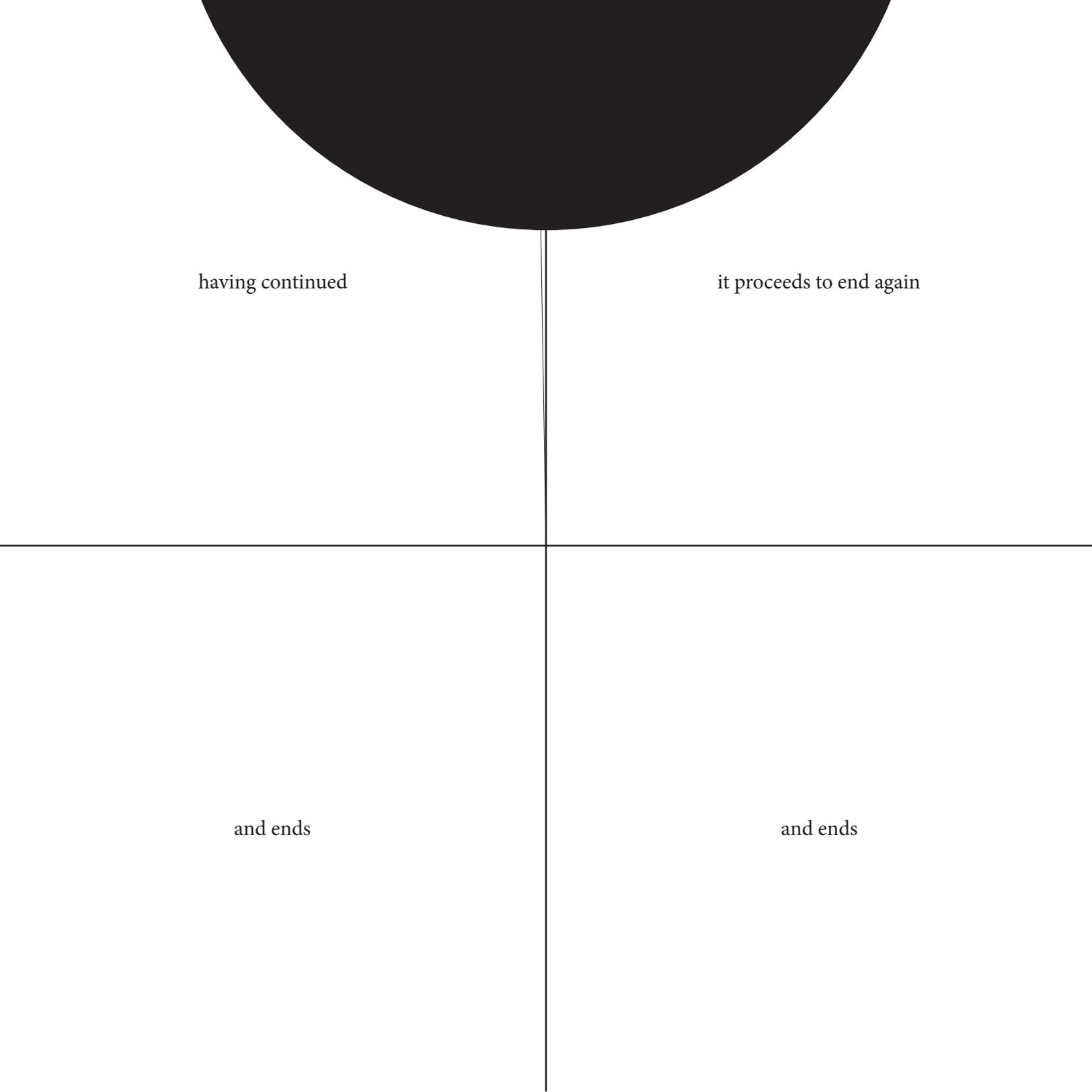


but, having never really ended, it continues

pointedly, it shirks established practice

and ends

before continuing



having continued

it proceeds to end again

and ends

and ends



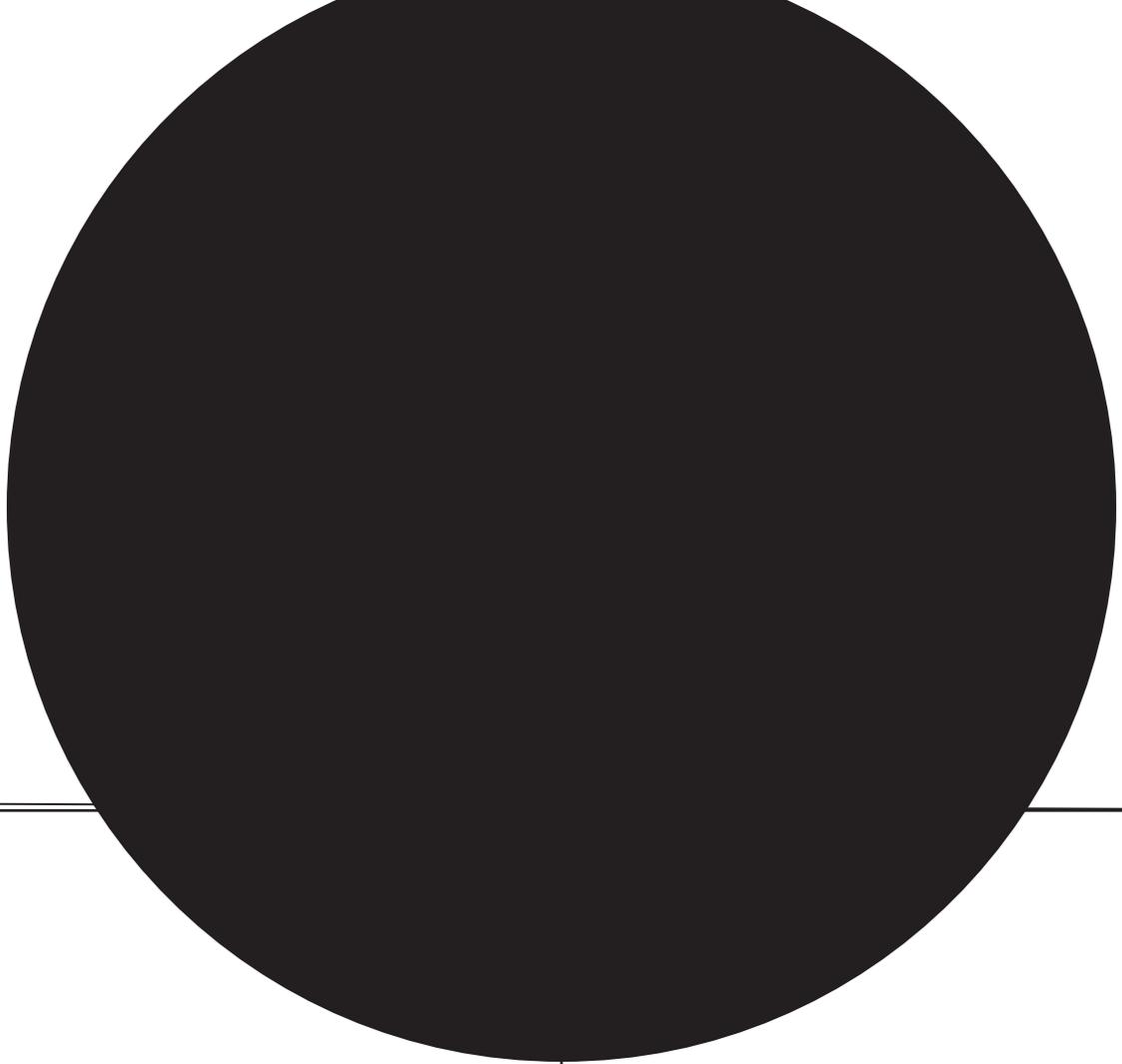
and ends

the play begins



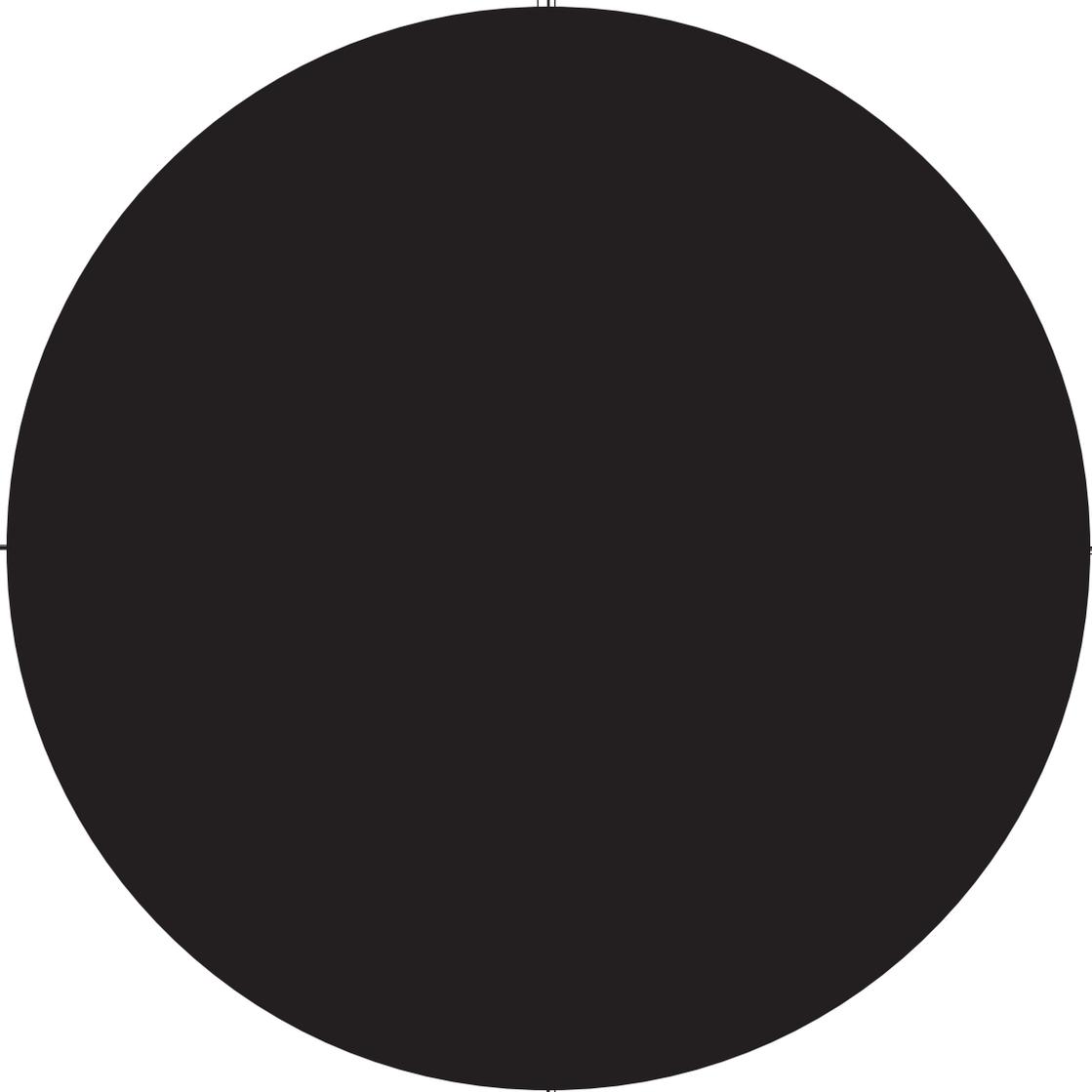
and ends

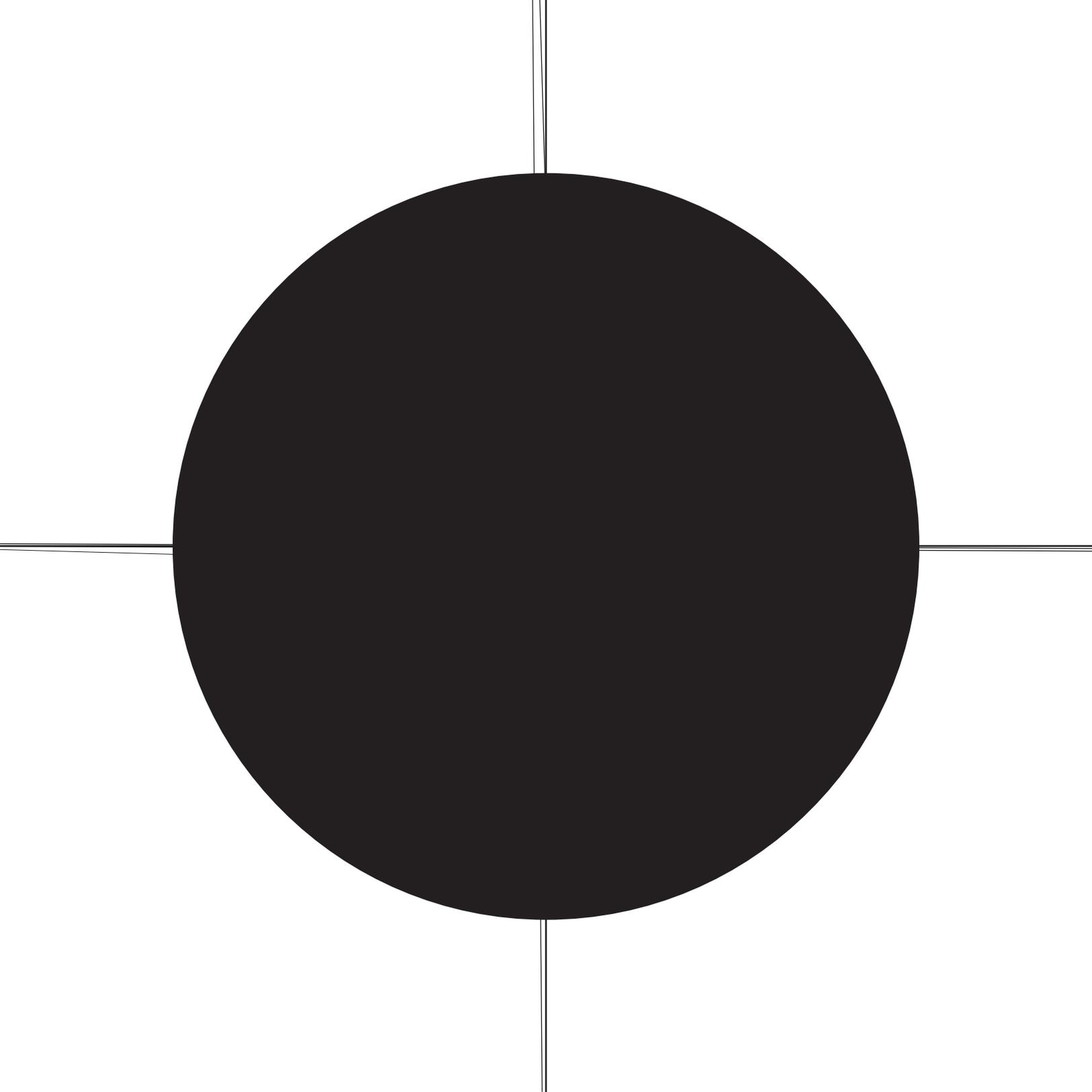
and does so while beginning again



the play begins...

begins again...

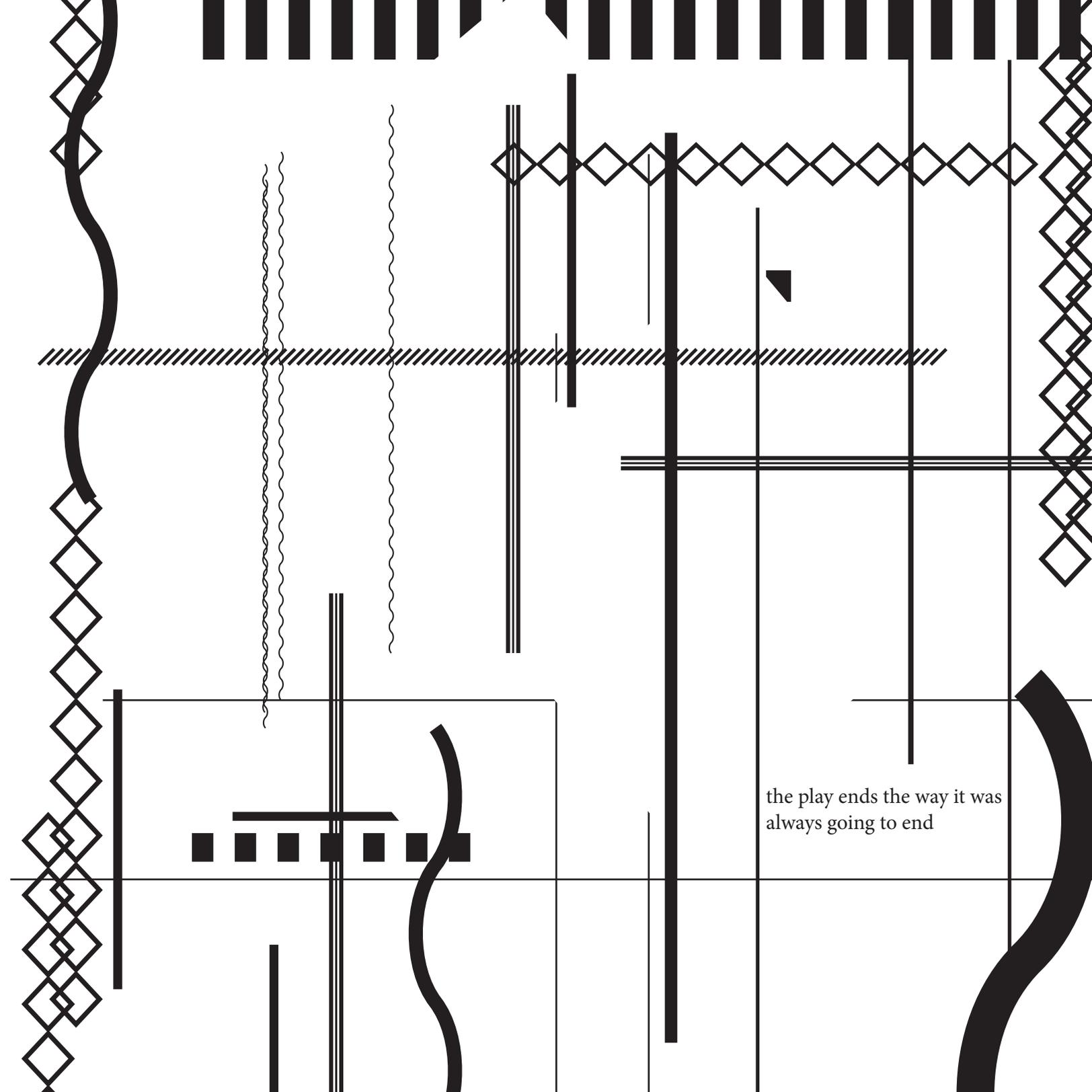






a moment of sublime beauty
emerges from the wreckage

eliciting a profound sense of
awe, sorrow, joy, and recogni-
tion, there is a feeling of ar-
rival, of having arrived where
you have always meant to be
where you have always been go-
ing, you have always been ap-
proaching an arrival in the
midst of the wreckage, in the
midst of the wreckage, out of
the wreckage, the wreckage, de-
parting the wreckage, approach-
ing the arrival, there is awe,
there is a sense of loss like:
WHY HAS IT TAKEN ME SO LONG TO
FIND YOU? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN
ALL OF MY LIFE? WAS THIS EVER
A LIFE AT ALL? WAS THIS EVER A
WAY TO LIVE, US APART, NEITHER
TOGETHER, AWAY, DEPARTING THE
WRECKAGE, THE ENDLESS WRECKAGE,
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN ALL OF MY LIFE?!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!



the play ends the way it was
always going to end