   Say its name.
   Say its name.
   Say its name.
   Name how it hurts.
December 18, 1780. Last night Abba miscarried of a boy. Mary Ann was delivered of twins both died. Rosetta’s child not named, dead.³
   Say their names. Abba. Mary Ann. Rosetta.
Margaret Garner chose death for herself and her children, Mary and Cilla, rather than suffer a life of enslavement.
“The faded faces of the negro children tell...the degradation female slaves submit[ted.] Rather than give her little daughter to that life, she killed it...who shall say she had no right? With my own teeth would I tear open my vein, and let the earth drink my blood, rather than wear the chains of slavery.”⁴
“Tender sorrow for Mamie Till-Mobley,” “When [I later] lost one of [my] sons, [I] thought about the grief that Mamie must have felt and grieved all the more.”⁵
The dying words of Carolyn Bryant Donham confessing she did not tell the truth about Emmett Till. “That old threadbare lie.”⁶
The “real American carnage.”
May 15, 2010. Wrongfully arrested and imprisoned for 3 years for theft. Refusing a guilty plea to a crime he did not commit. Battered, beaten, and denied the protective innocence promised by childhood. Kalief Browder killed himself. Sixteen months later, his mother, Venida Browder died of a heart attack...a broken heart.
Says its name. Imperialist. White Supremacist. Capitalist. Patriarchy. The intersecting system of domination and oppression that kills our children, breaks our families, destroys our lives.

Notes