



Margaret Garner Lyrics and Outline

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MEAN THINGS

FAR AWAY

SAD THINGS

FAR AWAY

SOFT THINGS

COME AND PLAY

PRETTY THINGS

HERE TO STAY

SLEEP IN THE MEADOW

SLEEP IN THE HAY

BABY'S GOT A DREAMING ON THE WAY

SLEEP IN THE MEADOW

SLEEP IN THE HAY

BABY'S GOING TO DREAM THE NIGHT AWAY

TONI MORRISON

At some point the world's beauty is enough.

You don't need to photograph, paint or even remember it.

It is enough.

No record needs to be kept and you don't need

Someone to share it with or tell it to.

You can let go.

The world will always be there.

While you sleep it will be there,

And when you wake.

So you can sleep now

And there is every reason to wake.

Toni Morrison

THE ONLY MASTER

[SHE] HOLD ME

[HE] HOLD ON

[SHE] STAY SWEET

[HE] STAY STRONG

[SHE] BE MY MOONRISE

[HE] BE MY DAWN

YOU ARE MY SHOULDER

YOU ARE MY SPINE

YOU ARE MY COURAGE

YOU ARE THE SIGN

THAT LOVE IS THE ONLY MASTER

THE HEART OBEYS.

LOVE IS THE ONE MASTER

MY HEART OBEYS.

TONI MORRISON

MARGARET

Historical Account

Ten years before the start of the Civil War a family of slaves escaped from a Kentucky farm into the free territory of Ohio. The family, consisting of a father, a mother and four children, lived with the father's mother until slave catchers arrived to return them to Kentucky. At that moment, the mother, Margaret, ran with the children into a woodshed in order to kill them and herself. She cut the throat of one child, and was about to smash the head of the youngest into the wall when she was prevented. All of them were arrested and tried--for theft, not murder, and, in spite of national protests, returned to Kentucky. The owner re-sold Margaret and her youngest child "down river". On the boat headed for New Orleans Margaret again tried to end her life and her child's by throwing herself into the river while holding her baby. Again she was prevented. Her life after that is unrecorded.

Outline of fictional/ operatic account

1. Margaret with children in happy domestic scene; anticipating a feast celebrating anniversary of her escape

2. Re -tells story of her escape to neighbors--proudly, arrogantly

3. Neighbors rejoice but warn her of pride in her singular accomplishment; she is unrepentant

4. Evening slumber interrupted by slave captors

5. Margaret rushes to shed with the children

6. Captors search for her

7. Captors find her with one child dead at her feet; the other raised to smash its skull.

8. She is stopped by Sherriff et al

9. Led away to jail. Chorus of neighbors ambivalent about her act

10. In prison she mourns and questions her actions in a dialogue with jailkeeper

11. Is interrogated by judge and lawyer, then released and returned to slave owner

12. Slave owner pronounces her unfit; sells her to slave trader

13. Margaret on boat remembering days of freedom

14. Margaret has vision of the re-enslaved life before her and her baby.

15. Explains to baby why death is preferable

16. Climbs up and leaps into the river to her death.

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