



"I don't have to explain..."

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I don't have to explain or remember or
say a thing. Because you know it. All
You know,

I never would have left you. Never.
It was all I could think of to do.
When the train came I had to be
ready. Schoolteacher was teaching us
things we couldn't learn. I didn't care
nothing about the measuring ^{string} ~~tape~~ - that's
all Sixo talked about - we all laughed
about that - except Sixo. He didn't laugh at
nothing. But I didn't care. He'd ~~wound~~
wrap that string ^{all over} ~~around~~ my head, cross my
nose, around my behind, ^{number my teeth}. I thought he was a
fool. And the question was the biggest foolishness
of all.

TK

Bays
running
ahead
hill of green
let them go
Baby girl
in basket in
sun.
Grape arbor
mosquito
cloth
Room
above.

Me and ^{your brothers} ~~my~~ bays come up from the second patch.
The first one was close ~~to~~ ^{onions} to the house where the
quick things grew: beans, tomatoes, sweet peas,
~~for the salad~~. The other one was further down
for ^{potatoes} ~~vine~~ growing stuff (things) ^{and} pork salad.
~~Not much~~ ^{father} was up yet - it was early still - Some
^{down there}

early young salad maybe. ~~He and my bay~~ ^{we}
~~did the weed~~ pulled weeds and hoed a little.
to give everything a good start. After that
we hit out back to the house. The ground raised
up from ~~where the 2nd patch was~~ not a hill
exactly best kind of. ~~the bay~~ enough for
Puffer and Howard to run up and roll down,
they kept that it run up and roll down. It was
early still - the growing season had took hold
but not much was up: I remember the peas,
tomatoes still had flowers. The grass was long
though full of the last bit of blue

white buds and those tall red blossoms
people call Diane and ^{some thing there with} the leastest little bit of a blue -
light, like a cornflower but pale, pale. Real pale.

I maybe should have been ^{hurried} ~~been~~ hurrying: ~~that~~ ^{up} baby

With me staring at flowers and sky
every two or three steps

because you a
~~that~~ I left back at the house in the basket in the
yard. Away from where the chicken scratched, but I
you never know. Anyway I took my time going
getting back. ^{your brother} ~~the boys~~ didn't have the patience.
They ran on ahead and I let em. Some thing
sweet lies in the air that time of year. And
if the breeze ~~it~~ is right its hard to stay in.
doors.

When I got back I could hear ^{Howard} laughing
down by the quarters. ^{through my hoe down yard} I cut across the side
yard to get to the ^{you} ~~trading~~. She was ^{sleeping} ~~lying in the~~
~~you was out~~ ^{you} ~~had~~ works at all. Still asleep. I wanted to
pick ^{you} ~~her~~ up in my arms and I wanted to watch
^{you sleeping} ~~her~~ too. Didn't know which ^{look at} ~~the~~ shade
had moved by the time I got back and the sun
was shining right on ~~you~~ ^{you} Right on your face.
like when you first the day you come back.

Yonder, not far, was a grape arbor ~~the~~
Garner made. Always full of his plans,
he ~~thought he would~~ ^{his own} make a wine for this
table. Never did get more than a ~~for~~ little
~~full~~ of jelly from it. I don't think the sort
was right for grapes. ^{your daddy} ~~father said it wasn't~~
~~the sort~~, it was the rain, not the sort. So
said it was bup. Little tight The grapes
were little and tight. Sour as vinegar (brine)
too. But there was a ^{little} ~~table~~ in it and it was
shady. So I picked up ^{your} ~~the~~ basket and carried you
~~to~~ me to the grape arbor. Cool in there
and shady. I ~~set~~ ^{you} ~~let~~ down on the little table
and figured if I got a piece of mushin the
bup and then wouldn't get to ~~the~~ ^{you}. And
if Mrs. Garner didn't need me right there
in the kitchen I ^{you and me could} ~~could~~ get out there ^{while I do} ~~for the day~~.

~~the vegetables~~ ^{started} headed for I got a chair and
I ~~took off to~~ the back ^{door} porch to get ^{the clean} ~~some~~ mushin
me kept in the kitchen ^{men} The grass felt good on
my feet. ~~As~~ I got near ^{the door and} heard voices. School
teacher made his pupils sit and learn books for
a spell every afternoon. ~~the~~ If it was nice enough

You had the sweetest face.

weather they'd sit on the side porch. All three of
em. He'd talk and they'd woud write. Or
he woud read and they woud write down
what he said. * I heard him say 'No. No. That's
not which one you doing? And one of the
boys said 'Settle' ^{that's with} I stopped because I heard
my name, and then I took a few steps to where
I could see what they was doing. Schorblecker
was standing over one of them with ^{one} hand
behind his back. He licked ~~the~~ a forefinger
a couple times and turned a few pages. Slow.
I was on my way back ^{to get the thing} when I heard him
say 'No. No. That is not the way. I told
you to put her human characteristics on the left ^{her} animal
ones on the right."

I ^{commenced} ~~started~~ walking backwards. Couldn't
stop and didn't ever look behind me to find out
where I was headed. I just kept lifting my
feet and pushing back. When I bumped
up against a tree my scalp was prickly.
I ^{got to} ~~went to~~ the ^{granary} ~~garage~~ fast enough. But
I didn't have the number, ~~and~~ this was
settled all over ^{your} face. Rubbing their
hands.

My head itched ~~so bad~~ ^{like the devil}. Like
somebody was sticking ~~to the~~ fine needles
in my scalp. I never told ^{anybody} ~~anybody~~ or
nobody. ~~Mrs. Garner had got~~ ^{she} was low
then. Not as low as she ended up - but failing?
But I asked ~~Mrs. Garner~~ ^{her} what did
Characteristics mean. "Features," she
said. "Features. ① You ^{know} like a baby
sucks its thumb. That's one of its
features. ^{there's} Natural to it. The way
it is." The characteristic of
Summer, say, is heat. Understand?"

I wouldn't make the ink.

^{about} to turn
around
and ^{you}

rubbed
their
hands

(A) She looked at me from
underneath her ^{right eye} ~~right eye~~. Already
it was to catch life in her
eyes.

a kind of bag grew under her jaw
It didn't seem to hurt her - ~~but~~
it made her weak. ^{first} She'd be
up and spry in the morning and
by the second milking. She
couldn't stand up. Next she took to
~~was~~ sleeping later. ^{on this}
day She was in bed ^{all day} and
I thought to carry her some
bean soup. and ask her then.

When I opened the bedroom door A 23

* I never feel about this. Not your puppy, not nothing.
I almost feel ~~that~~ ^{that} Gamble, but she was so
weak then and getting weaker. This is the first time
I'm feeling it and I'm talking it to you because
it might help explain some thing to you but though I
know you don't need me to do it. To tell it or even
thinking it. You don't have to listen either, if you
don't want to. But I couldn't help listening
to what I heard. He was talking to his
puppy and I

I bring you some bean soup, I started her.

She said

① I don't think I can swallow that.

Try a bit.

② Too thick. I'm sure it's too thick.

Want me to loosen it up with a little water?

③ No. Take it away. Bring me some cool water, that's all.

Yes ma'am. ^{Ma'am} Could I ask you some thing.

What is it. Sir?

What do characteristic mean?

What?

The word. "
she moved her head around the pillow

Oh. Features? Who taught you that?
Owka?

I heard ^{the school teacher} ~~him~~ say it.

~~Change~~ the water. ^{For the} ~~When do you think~~
This is warm.

Yes Ma'am. Features?

Water. ^{For the} Cool Water.

any
beans
another
name
then?

I
[Seth] put the pitcher on the tray with the
[white bean] soup and went downstairs.

When I got back with the
fresh water I held her head
while she drank. It took her
a while -- I ~~believe~~^{because} that bag
made it hard to swallow. She lay
back and wiped her mouth.

I can't seem to wake up Seth. All
^{seem to} want ~~to do~~ is sleep.

Then do. I'm ~~taking~~^{take} care of things.
What about the

Is he handling the Pauls?
Sixo? (I know Hall's no trouble but)

Yes ma'am Look Like.

Do they do what he tells them?
They don't need telling, ~~ma'am~~.

Good. That's a mercy. I should
be back downstairs in a day or two. I
just need more rest.

You said features, ma'am?

What?

Features.

Amm. Little - a feature of summer
is heat. A characteristic is a feature.

A thing that's natural to a thing.

Can you have more than one?

You can have quite a few.

You know like a baby sucks its thumb.

But that's one, but it has others.
Too. ~~Make sure~~ — Rosa keeps

~~doesn't~~ keep — away from
Rose, and put the — ~~down~~ ^{down}

Sethe you hear me? ~~What if~~ ^{Come away}
from that window ~~Don't~~ and listen.

Yes ma'am.

— ~~Don't~~ Allright now. I'm through.
Talking makes me tired.

Ask him to come up ~~before~~ after
supper.

Yes, ma'am.

If you'd wash your hair you could get rid
of that lice.

Aint no lice in my head, ma'am.

Whatever it is a good scrubbing is what it
needs. Don't tell me we're out of soap.

No, ma'am.

Yes, ma'am.

Had lived her life
most of her life on a bridge

In fact she had had

A kind of bridge life

Being there over water

Having been somewhere else before

The before place was a crouching
dark & crouched although whether it was
she who crouched or who watched it - she can't tell

Wanting to get to ^{the} getting to the bridge and not being
able to cross it.

Waiting there - so so long

(no shoes)

Somewhere ^{Chewing} laughing
than crying beneath her - so

seductive. She ~~has~~ realizes the bridge

is the place - not the crouching before

or the ~~place~~ crossing - But just to

be there still over the water below.

Because that is where ^{it} the crying is coming
from only now it is more laughing than
Chewing.

Go toward it. Enters the water

and sees her reflection swimming toward
her. She has never seen herself but
she knows the laughter ^{swimming toward her} is her own
and the laughter ^{too} ~~is her self~~.

Permanent & fading

And she wants to enter ^{the laughter} and he entered by ^{her} it.

and ~~they~~ ^{she} need only find the place

~~They stay - looking for~~ the join. Locates it

Just under the chin where ^{it begins -} the laughing
is hatched. Touches it. Feels

~~is~~. A pinch. She watches
bare-feet
her ~~self~~ swim away -

There was a time when she
couldn't tell the difference between
~~having~~ ^{when} her "eyes" ^{were} closed and when
~~having~~ they were open. Inside
and out [~~was~~ all [if it]] was dreaming

find some words
that would not
slide ~~away~~ ^{off} and

Reliable
weight
9?

~~It would take some concentration, but~~
~~not so much~~

~~Know what~~
Get the
meaning

sticking to the picture because the
moss ^{on} them prevented it. ⁽²⁾
? of the jelly ~~on~~ them. ~~Lately, [however]~~
? ~~it was~~ ^{getting} easier.

fn

and even then she had to copy the
further to make it clear.

~~although she~~
still

Sethe was better, but care was needed to
say words first and put them in order
~~get it right at~~ for carefully. For them
to hold. [Like "Did your mother ..."]
For ~~because~~ Sethe talked easily, talking pleased
her and she took any murmur or — was
leaves an open door through which

but carrying her ^a load of ^{her own} pictures.
And Beloved got minutes
of pure thrill. ~~But~~ Sethe wanted to tell — not be told to

Most receptive of at
The Best, the Smartest was Glenner.

The words didn't have to stick for her.
They could roll near, ^{or just} lean ^{toward} next to
what the picture and Glenner knew.

~~Best of all~~
She ~~for~~ knew, ^{Even} when there were no
words. At the bank watching ^{the} turtles,

It made her sad but
patient her own & S.

But Sethe
St who was the
reason stayed on
why she lived ~~stayed on~~ ^{the} the first
the ~~one~~ she wanted to tell find words for place
bridge and
never wanted to tell —

She needed words for all
and the reason
words were needed at all

Sethe
He went to bed smiling, ^{leager} ~~happy~~ to lie
down and dwell on the proof for the
conclusion she had already leaped to.
Tondle the day and circumstances of
her arrival the meaning of that
Kiss in the Clearing.....

stet She
Slept instead and woke, still smiling,
to a ~~spoon-bright~~ morning, so cold
her ~~breast~~ she could see her breath.

She lingered a moment to collect the
courage ~~to~~ to throw off the quilts and
hit a chilly floor. For the first time, she was
glad to be late for work.

Down stairs she saw the girls sleeping
~~asleep as she had~~ where she'd left
them. ~~their backs were to~~ but back
to back now, each wrapped tight in
~~was~~ blankets, breathing into their pillows.
The pair and a half of skates were
lying ~~where~~ by the door, the stockings
hung ~~on a nail~~ to dry behind the cooking stove
to dry had not.

Sethe looked at Beloved's face
and smiled.

2
Quietly, carefully she stepped around
her to wake the fire. First a bit of
paper, then a ~~taste~~ ^{little} of Kindlin - not too
much - just a taste. until it was
strong enough for more. She fed it
~~fast~~ till its dance was rapid. When
she went outside to ~~collect~~ ^{more} wood
from the shed she did not notice
the man's footprints frozen in the
snow. She crunched around to
the back ^{to the cord piled high with snow} and filled her arms with
wood. She even looked ^{down} at the woodshed,
smiling.

She fed its dance
until it was fast &
wild

- and then to have that community
step back and hold ~~to~~ ^{you + self} at a distance.
- well, it could wear out even a Baby
Suggs, holy.

"Listen here, girl, he ^{told} ~~was~~ said to her,
you can't quit the Word. It's given
to you to speak. You can't quit
the Word, I don't care what all
happens to you."

They were standing in ~~the~~ street
ankle deep in leaves, lamps lit the
downstairs windows of ~~the~~ spacious
houses and ~~turned~~ ~~made~~ the
afternoon early evening ~~a dark~~ look
darker than it was. Quite by
Chance, as he left.

he ^{glanced across the street and} recognized the skipping woman as
his friend. He had not seen her as

7
7
1
musk. Quickly ^{and} he crossed the
street, scuffing leaves from the
maples as he went. When he stopped
her with a greeting, she returned it
with a face knotted clean of interest.

She could have been a free - ~~free~~
not

stick for her; they could roll
~~near~~ or just lean toward the
picture and Glenner knew. Even
when there were no words, Glenner
knew: at the ^{creek} bank watching the
turtles; when sugar was the
solution - or sleep. True sleep, ^{that is,} because
there was a time when she (Beloved)
couldn't tell the difference between
when her eyes were closed and
when they were open. Inside
and out was dreaming. Now,

because of Glenner, she was learning:
words that stuck; sleep } ^{what} to chew and,
yesterday in the shed, laughter which ^{was} why
So Glenner was the one to find words for
Glenner would know ^{why she could} ~~why she~~ what ~~is was in~~

~~the water that made her stay on~~ (the bridge)
Neither leave or cross it, but remain there
~~not cross it or leave it~~
her whole life listening to the chewing/laughing
that came from the water below.
~~beneath it, below.~~

Saw?

a feeling so sweet

A Carpet bag ^{full of shoes} in her hand, she
waited ~~indifferen~~ ^{begin,} for him to lead,
or shape a Conversation. If there
had been Sadness in her eyes, he
would have understood it; but
there indifference lodged where
Sadness should have been.

"You missed The Clearing two
Saturdays running," he told her.

She turned her head away and
gazed at the Houses along the
Street.

"Folks came," he said.

"Folks come; folks go," she answered.

"Here, let me ^{carry} ~~have~~ that," He tried
to take her bag from her, ^{but} she wouldn't
let him.

"I got a delivery some place long in
here," she said. "Name of Tucher."

"Yonder," he said "Twin ^{chestnuts} in the
yard. Sick, too."

They walked a bit, his pace slowed to

to accomodate her skip.

Well?

Well, what?

You gonna Call Saturday coming.
or what?

"If I Call them and they come
What on earth am I going to say?"

"Say the Word!" He almost shouted it.

"That's one other thing took away
from me," she said and that was

When he exhorted her, pleaded with her
not to quit. No matter what, the Word
had been given to her and she had
to speak it. God to.

They had reached the twin Chestnuts
and the white house that loomed
behind them.

"See what I mean?" he said "big
trees like that ^{little} both of em together
got the leaves
of a ^{young} birch."

"I see what you mean," she said, but
she ~~peered~~ ^{peered instead} ~~glazed~~ at the ^{big} white house.

Insert Stamp Paid
before the voices

* Also Stamp can do the
Chap 9 Baby Supp Remembering

1871

End
Cds

9085
around
to the
back

[So the voices did not begin with
the click or with Sethe's climb
up the tall lily white (snow white)
[3rd section is bone white]] Stars.

They were there at the edge of the
house all along (all the time)

^{much}
Nothing going on the river. A few marshy
places (only he knew about) yielded a catch
or two. And he was reduced to eating the
feet ^(wrapped in paper on his coat pocket) of the animals he killed.

Whole town wiped clean of black folk
Fifty ^{white} men ~~the~~ snapping their teeth at
one black man. He called it ^{feeding} eating
himself that's what it looked like.

^{circling beaks}
The ^{dropped} that circled. Then shot down
to feed on the fox.

fox feed

1. Add a line re:

✓ voices being those

of the broken necks, cooked blood
and girls ^{who had} ^{lost} without their ribbons

2. Since ~~proving~~ ^{proof of} - hoping to dwell
on the conclusion she had leaped to.

- Sleeps / wakes to ^{some} bright cold morning

- downstairs look at girls.

- wakes up the fire

Goes out to re-fill wood box

Thinking: She is not mad at me. - She still
loves me wants to be with me. -
She understands.

Thinking: The hand holding shadows were
not P. D & me - but me ~~three~~

And if my daughter can come back
from the grave - my boys can
& I will come back from wherever
they have gone to.

Thinking: Paul D. made me think there

Oh, she was
sneaking now.

was a world out there - and
that I could live in it. I should
have known better - did know better.

Now I am back to the place I live
in. Whatever it is outside this
house is not for me - ~~this~~ the
world is in here - that's all there is
and all there needs to be.

Thinking: I don't have to remember

~~I don't even~~ have to explain (She

understands at all) I can

forget: a) the way Baby's
heart collapsed and how

we agreed it was consumption

without a sign of it in the
world. b) the fighting rats

in jail - waiting for her

to bring the food I needed

c) (hardly) the whites who came

Since it all
becomes more
isolated -
more interior
while Stamp
fights fatigue
trying to do
know in
i.e.

the "real" world
knocking at her
door - but
the door must
be opened
to him
x/

How
the
door
opens
to
him

N.B. African slavers did not know what the women knew (in the market): how to determine the value of what you have to sell to the buyer: not knowing the value of what they sold to the buyer

Beloved is taken by people who spoke another language to the men without skin.

Paul J. watching Lillian Garner trade his brother. Life of value but no meaning.

"if you cannot tell me by my face (and she pointed to the pattern on her cheeks) look here"

Dancing on the ship.

How much Paul J. loves Sweet Home - the land -

re: "fat" remark of Paul J. in the Chap where Stamp is trying to knock - the real pain of the word is in the school teacher's

School teacher to his nephew. (as the latter copies out into a notebook the notes sch. has taken) "No, No. You have it in the wrong place. Her human characteristics on the left, her animal ones on the right."

Nephew: "That's the way I have it."

Sch: "But they should line up. See here. Like this. Each characteristic should have its mate. That way I'll know what I need to fill in. These are transitional people."

white cherry blossoms?
grape arbutus - sunflowers

Concerning trade, African slavers did not know what market women knew: the real value of their to the buyer

They going to let you out for the ^{burial} funeral.
~~Just~~ the funeral, she said. And they did.

The Sheriff came with me, ^{just the burial} watching me feed
Denver in the wagon.

Neither Howard nor Bayler would let me
near ^{them} - not even to touch their heads.

I believe a lot of folks were there, but I
just saw the box. ~~the~~ Reverend Pike

Spoke & in a loud voice, but I didn't
catch a word - except the first two and
6 months later when ^{and} they let me out for good.
Denver was ready for solid food

I went and got you a gravestone, but I didn't
have ^{money} enough for the carrying, so I exchanged
(bartered) what I did have and I'm
sorry to this day I never thought to ask
him for the whole thing - all ^{I heard of what} Reverend
Pike said, ~~that~~ ^{clearly} beloved, which
is what you are to me and I don't have to
be sorry about getting only one word, and
I don't have to remember the rest. I
can forget all of it now because as soon
as I got the gravestone in place you
made your presence known in ~~the~~ ^{the} house
and worried us all to distraction,
I didn't understand it then. I thought
you were mad with me. And now I know
that if you was you are now cause
you came back here to me and I
was right all along: there is no
world outside my door. I only need
to know one thing. How bad is the scar?

1. Stamp - debt to Baby Suggs (5)
2. Sethe - ice skating / song (7)
3. Stamp - ^{Reconstruction} fatigue - understanding B.S. (12)
4. Sethe - reveling in what she can (5)
forget.
5. Stamp - full ^{to exhaustion with} of news of the world
finally knocks
6. Sethe - doesn't answer the door

Then
Some of the voices clamoring were not anxious
to be heard - ~~that~~ by him (Stamp)
Some belonged ^{or ciphered} to the women 2124.
~~they were meant for~~
their ^{unspeakable} thoughts, ~~the~~ [un]spoken

It changed everything. And
except for the Clarification she got
from Mrs. Garner, there was
no one to talk to about it.
Not Halle or the others [What
could they do?] Schoolteacher ~~was~~
charging them too. He told ~~them~~ ^{her}
they were spoiled - had ~~a~~ spoiled
ways. Did things their way &
~~didn't~~ were slow to change. And
it was true. They said Yes Sir
but the faces were closed.
Sweet Home looked different

the laughter and the laugh.
wants ^{enter it & be entered by it.} to be in / with / of it.

Wide-eyed she floats toward the
figure. Looks for the join.
Locates it. ^{Entry land is entered} & feels a prick in
her throat. Watches her ^{two} bare
feet swim away. - [along with
the laugh.] She feels urgent.

Surfaces. Another urgent self
drives her. Comes to 124.

In shock. Urgency is here. She
Knows (senses) Sethe is part of
the join. Becomes what they
wish.

NOTES

narrowed to
forget
The Crouching is Beloved's narrowed
recollections of the Middle Passage
(^{that} ~~where~~ there was once only ^{dried} salt-water
vomit to eat) (~~where~~ ^{that} one whole
village population were thrown into the
sea) (~~that~~ ^{where} ship rats waited quietly
for human sleep)

With her she both crouched and watched
Crouchers.

Before that = flowers but she cannot
remember that. After the crouching
- lines with

Then arriving at a bridge.

Paralytic - Not being able to cross
it or back off of it. Wait there
for what seems (to her) a lifetime.

14
years
old
Sound of
begins to hear a peductive
laughing/chewing - Like a child
eating cake and laughing - Is trans-
fixed by it. Wants to go where
it is. Falls into water (jumps)
sees a double swimming toward
her (like the woman from the
ship) knows the figure is

Denver... and looked so sweet
 maybe she could find some words that
 wouldn't slide off and say them
 out loud. They would have to be
 clean, hard words with no ~~jelly~~ or moss
 on them, ^{in order?} to tell her that she had
 lived all her life on a bridge.

Almost all. No, all, because the
^{her bridge life there was only crouching}
 part before, ~~slid off completely~~. If
 she opened her lips and let the words
 that wanted to ^{come out} ~~escape~~ come out, people
 nodded ~~and tried to figure~~ it out
 but Beloved always knew when the
 words were not sticking to the picture
 because the moss on them prevented
 it. The man called Paul D was
 the worst at figuring ^{anything} out ~~what the~~
 Everything ^{Beloved} she said to him missed.
 because he was forever wanting her to
 tell him what she didn't know and

her mixed and dirty words angered
him with the anger of a man
^{spooning?} cutting ^{soup} stew with a knife. Only
once had he got the picture right
(^{after} she practised beforehand and even then
she had to copy the turtles to
make it clear.)

Sethe was ^{no} better. Any murmur was an
open door through which she would
step carrying a load of her own pictures.
~~and Beloved got twenty minutes of pure~~
~~thrill. But~~ Sethe wanted to tell - not
be told to. It made Beloved sad but
patient because Sethe was the reason
she stayed ^{so long} on the bridge and the
reason words were needed at all.

The most receptive, of course, was
Lenner. The words didn't have to

They said I wasn't
Grateful

Baby said

to see - ~~Baby~~ The Bodwins - argued
my case in Chambers; the Colored ladies
of Delaware got ^{up} a petition; ^{white} preachers came
to pray for me; reporters
and when dinner was ready for solid food
They let me out for good. -

They let
me out
for

'your ~~the~~ funeral but I didn't catch a word of
it - except the 1st two and when they
let me out for good I went and got you
a head stone and I would have put the
all down whole of it on there but I
didn't have enough to pay for ~~the~~ carving.
So I exchanged what I had and I'm
sorry ^{to this day} I didn't think to get the whole thing -
all the ^{preacher} said that I could remember;

(to me) Dearly Beloved. which is what you are
And all I have to remember the rest I
can forget now - because as soon as I got the
Gravestone in place you made your presence known in this
house and worried us all to distraction - because I didn't
^{understand it then}
I only need to know one thing. How bad is
the scar?

I didn't thought you were mad at
me. And now I know if you was
you ain't now. Cause you back
you came back here to me and

1. ^{to: earlier} watching the Cardinal - backing away from it
When the streak of red disappeared
A sliver of memory twisted (turned) ~~in~~
some ^{deep} place back beyond her eyes and
deep. She walked backwards, ^{the short of} remembering
color under now that it was gone.

2. to: the water's edge watching the turtles.
her skirt hem wet and spreading.
- after turtle description

Chewing & laughing
Something chewing and laughing
again a small heave; ^{a dislocation of} the sliver ~~and~~ relocated
(dislocated) itself. It hurt, but only a little.
(like splinter)

Some distance ^{was} behind her ^{was} the chewing and laughing

and she ~~was~~ went toward it (like the
old days) but slower now. Not desperate.

illegal

1844-1850

Settle

1849

19

1850- Born Killed

20

39

1871

22

18-Denver

60

^{and}
She beat two eggs into yesterday's cold
hamming, formed it into patties and fried
them ^{with} some ham pieces before Glenn
woke completely and groaned

~~She groaned.~~

"Back stiff?"

"Yeah."

^{Sleeping on the}

"Floor's supposed to be good for you."

"Hurt's like the devil"

"Could be that fall you took."

Glenn smiled. "That was fun." She turned
to look at Beloved snoring lightly "Should I
wake her?"

[No.] Let her rest.

She likes to see you off in the morning.

I'll make sure she does, ~~st~~

But I have to think, first, before I ^{talk to} ~~let her~~
~~know~~ her, let her know I know. Think about ^{what} all
I ain't got to remember no more. Do like Baby
said: ~~lay it down~~ ^{on} think it ~~then~~ lay it down
— for good, — ff

They ate like men: ^{Content} ~~Silent~~, ravenous.
Saying little, content ~~with~~ the company of the others
and the opportunity to look ~~at~~ in ~~her~~ eyes.

When Sethe wrapped her head and bundled
up to go it was already 7:00. And when
She left the house she neither saw the
punks nor heard the voices that ringed
124 like a noise.

Smoking at the things she would not have
to remember now. Thinking?

She ain't ^{no} mad at me. Not a bit. ⁴

The hand holding shadows she had seen on the road were not Paul & Lenore and herself. — but the "we" three". The three that ~~had held on to~~ ^{holding on to} each other as they skated skating last night before. the three sipping flavored milk. And since that was so — if her daughter could come back home from [where she had been] certainly her sons could, and would come back from wherever they had gone to.

Sethe covered her ^{front} teeth with her
 tongue against the cold. Hunched
 forward ^{by} with the burden in her arms,
 she walked back around the house
 to the porch - not ~~even~~ ^(conceal) noticing
 the frozen tracks she stepped in,

Inside the girls were still sleeping although they had changed positions while she was gone, ~~fact~~ ^{both} drawn to the fire. Now Lethe started the Cooking Stone. Reluctant still as quiet as she could be, reluctant to wake the sisters, happy to have them asleep at her feet while she made breakfast. Too bad she would be late for work - that's ~~too~~ ^{too} too bad. Once in 16 years? ~~Too~~ ^{That's} ~~just~~ ^{just} too bad.

Dumping ~~the~~ armload
into the woodbox made
them stir - but ~~not~~ wake.

147

Do you remember the first time
I told you where you were when you first had relations

Then he

measured

her: the

spread of

her hands

the — of her

head.

noze

Hale was

furious.

measured

Six's

private

parts

Fingering the (a) ribbons and
smelling skin, Stamp said, ~~but again~~
~~approached~~ ^{Seth's} ~~homage~~
My marrow is tired
I am bone tired, he thought. I

been tired all my days, bone tired,
but now it's got in the marrow.

Perhaps that is what Baby Suggs holy
felt when she lay down and thought
about color for the rest of her life.

When she told him ^{what} ~~her~~ ^{aim} ~~desire~~ was, he
thought she was ashamed, and too
shamed to say so. That her authority

in the pulpit, her ~~darings~~ in the
Clearing ^{after the her powerful} ~~her~~ ^{haco} Call (She didn't ^{deliver} ~~give~~
sermons, or preach; she insisted ~~that~~
She was too ignorant for that - ~~Her words~~
She called and the hearing heard) ~~her~~
~~test of heart~~ ^{broke} ~~all that~~ ^{all that} ~~had been~~ ^{mocked}
~~and rebuked~~ ^{by the blood} ~~spilled~~ ^{in her backyard,}
~~after all that~~ ~~She had and~~

After 60 years of losing children to
the people who chewed up her life
and spit it out like peach pits; →

God puzzled her and she was too ashamed
of Him to say so. Instead she told
Stamp she was going to ~~had~~ to think
about the colors of things. He tried to
dissuade her. Seth was in jail with her
nursing baby. The boys were ~~hoarding~~ ^{hoarding} hands
terrified of letting go. Strangers and familiars
were stopping by to hear how it went on.

or
dead
tobacco
plug

in the yard

"You got to do it," he said "You
got to. Can't nobody call like you.
You have to be there."

"What I have to do is get in my
bed and lay down. ~~There some~~
~~thing~~ I want to fix on something
harmless in this word."

"What word you talking about?
Aint nothing harmless down here."

"Yes it is. Blue. That don't hurt
nobody. Yellow neither."

You getting in the bed to think
about yellow?

I likes yellow

Then what? when you get through
with blue and yellow, then what?

I ~~can't say~~ ~~don't know~~. It's some thing ~~I~~ can't be
planned

You blaming God, he said. That's what
you doing.

No, Stamp I aint

You saying the white folks won?

That what you saying? The devil's
running it and always will.

I'm saying they came in my yard

You saying nothing counts?

I'm saying they came in my yard

yard

Seth's the one did it.

And if she hadn't?

You saying God give up? Nothing left
for us but pour out our own blood?

I'm saying they came in my yard.

You ~~punish~~ him, aint you.

~~Nothing~~ like he'd ~~blame~~ me

You can't do that B. S. It aint right

Was a time I knew what that was.

You still know

What I know is what you see:
A nigger woman hauling shoes

Aw Baby, what you looking for?
A miracle.

No. She said "I'm looking for what

He licked his lips, searching
with his tongue for the words
that would turn her around, lighten her load
that would turn her around, lighten her load
the name to be steady. These things are for my pass.

~~The only thing~~ What I was put here
to look
for - the back door

~~And she was~~ She skipped to it

But they didn't let her ~~in~~ ^{up}. They
took the shoes from her as she
stood on the steps and she rested
her hip on the railing while
the white ^{woman} ~~found~~ the dime.
looked for the

Stamp Paid he arranged his way;
~~he didn't want~~ ^{too angry} to walk her home and
listen to more, ~~so~~ He watched her for a
moment and turned to go, ~~but a minute~~
~~too soon before~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{white} face ~~at~~
he had caught the
attention of
the window.

before the alert
white face at
the window had
come to any
conclusion.

He regretted that conversation - the high
tone he took - his refusal - to see
the effect of weariness in the marrow
of a woman he believed was a mountain
Now, too late, he understood

The ~~love~~ heart that pumped out love
of her heart [like blood]
her: the mouth that spoke the Word
didn't caught.

They came in her yard anyway,
~~on~~ ^{spoiled her} ~~and~~ chose
~~to~~ her daughter blood choice
and

She could not approve nor condemn
Sethe's [bloody] choice. One or

the other might have saved her

but beaten ^{up} by the claims

of both - She ~~was tired at last~~ ^{went to bed.}

The white folks had tired her out
at last.

And him. 1870 and ~~the~~

white folks were still on the loose.

Whole towns wiped clean?

Negroes; 87 lynchings in one

year alone in Kentucky; Four

Schools burned to the ^{with} ground;

property taken, grown men whipped

like children; children whipped

like adults, Black women raped

by the crew; necks broken,

~~Children~~ He smelled skin

1851
18
49

51
8
59

skin ^{and} ~~and~~ hot blood. ~~and~~

The Skin was one thing - but human

blood cooked in a lynchfire
was ^{a whole other thing} ~~something~~ another

^{Up off the pass of the North Star}
The stench stank; out of the
mouths of witnesses, it stank,
Etched in crooked ^{handwriting} ~~letters~~
in letters sent by hand, it stank,
detailed in documents full of whereases
and presented to any ^{legal} body who'd
read it - it stank. But ~~he~~ ^{none}
of that had worn out his marrow.
None of that. It was the ribbon,
tied, his flatbed up on the bank
securing it ^{the} best he could he
caught sight of something red
on its bottom. Reaching for it,
he thought it was a Cardinal
dead & stuck to his boat. He
fugged and what came loose in
his hand was a red ribbon
knotted around a curl of

met wavy hair - ^{clinging} ~~not~~ still to ~~a~~ its
bit of scalp. He untied the ribbon
& put it in his pocket, ^{dropped} ~~left~~ the curl
on the ~~ground~~ ^{grass} and ~~walked home~~ ^{away}.

On the way ^{home}, he stopped, short of
breath and ~~exhausted~~ ^{dizzy}. He waited
until the spell passed ^{before} ~~and started~~
~~up~~ continuing along on his way.

A moment later, his breath left
him again. This time he sat
down by a fence. Rested, he got to his
feet, but before he took a step he
turned to look back down the
road he traveled and said - to
its dust and the river beyond -
"What are these people?" "You
tell me, Jesus. What are they?"

When he got to his house, and he ^{was too} ~~was~~ tired to
eat the food his ^{sister and} ~~brother~~ nephews had
prepared. ^{From then on} ~~in silence~~ ~~and he never~~
~~fully recovered~~

he smelled skin

~~the skin~~ ~~small~~ ~~of~~ ~~was everywhere~~

He kept the ribbon; ~~and~~ the

skin smell kept him ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~but~~

~~both~~ ~~got~~ his marrow ^{weakened}

~~and~~ made him dwell on Baby

Suggs ^{wish to} ~~and~~ her ^{consideration}

Consider ^{what in the way was harmless.} ~~just the color of their~~

He hoped she stuck to blue, yellow

maybe green - and never fixed on

red.

Mistaking her, upbraiding her
over her - he kept on ^{through the} ~~trying~~
voices and tried

to knock at the ~~door~~ door of 124

Although he couldn't cipher the words,
he believed he knew who spoke them
~~they were the roaring.~~ ^{that}

all those broken necks, fire-cooked
blood and black girls who had
lost their ribbons. what a
roaring.

to let
her
know he

knew
to get
and to fight
with her & her kin.

No
 price 1 cent ago! she
 was soft. trusted Mrs. TK
 Ganner and him too. TK
 she ~~gave~~ ~~her~~ ~~TK~~ ~~she~~ ~~lost~~
 knows her ~~TK~~ ~~she~~ ~~lost~~
 understood to take along, not
 so much to wear but to take
 that trust made her believe
 she could discriminate
 among them.

and lived
 by

TK - She ~~had~~ believed in Billy!
 final word "There is no bad luck in
 the world but w.f."
 But Paul I ~~had~~ ~~made~~ ~~them~~
irrelevant

And all ^{them and} recollections of ~~them~~ ^{with}
 buried ~~(sealed the cracks & creases)~~ But P.D.
 dug up. ~~Made her remember,~~
 it ~~talked about and~~
 them ~~delivered~~
 gave her back her body, and
 her memory, & brought her more
 of Halle & wins of -

And when he heard her news, he counted
her feet and left.

Could ~~sure~~ turn her back ^{heard her news and}
But he ^{along with his remembrance (news)} was gone ~~now~~ having counted
her feet, and There was no entry now.
Savage would shout, others would

Don't talk to me Mr. Savage. Don't
say nothing to me this morning.

What? What? What? You talking back
to me?

I'm telling you don't say nothing to me.
You ^{better} get them pies made. Get 'em made.

She touched the fruit and picked
up the paring knife. — quite still.

? Insert

She thought he was ^{just} a little foolish. At first
praising her food — and the way she
mixed his collars, and the cake she
mixed with Mrs. G's recipe.

He sat at table and asked her
questions:

Who is your father

— mother — Her name — I don't remember
her name
What color was she?

How many children did she have
I don't know

more time and Baby declared peace.

She just up and quit. ^{Before} ~~When~~ Sethe returned she ~~was well on her way~~ ^{considered} ~~considered~~ blue and was well on her way to yellow. At first he wanted see her in the yard, ^{occasionally} or

delivering Staves in town. Then less

and less. He believed ^{then} that the shame took her to bed. Now, eight years after her contentious funeral and 18 years after the Misery he changed his mind. ~~She was tired~~ ⁱⁿ Her marrow was tired and it was a testimony to the heart that fed it that it took eight years to ~~finally~~ fallon, finally, the ^{color} she was ^{the original} ~~after~~ ^{laughter of} ~~her~~ ^{fatigue}, like his, was sudden, but hers tasted for years.

→ after five years of freedom given ^{to her} ~~who~~ her future bought
by her lost child, ^{who} ~~exchanged~~ with his

exchanged it so to speak, ^{so} she could have
one whether he did or not - to lose him
too; to acquire a daughter and

Grandchildren and ~~have~~ ^{see} that daughter
Children (or try to); to belong to a

Community of other Negroes - to love and be
loved by them to counsel and be counselled
protect and be protected, feed and be fed

Setting the table

It was Paul I, she thought, [He nudging in the ruts left by earlier wheels.] "Paul I made me think ~~there was a world out there~~ - a life, and that I could live in it. I should have known better. Did know better. Whatever is going on outside my door ain't for me. The world is in this room. That's all there is and all there needs to be.

relied
by the things
she no longer
had to
remember

I nudging in the ruts left by earlier wheels. Sethel smiled, "I don't have to remember ^{nothing} I don't ever have to explain. She understands it all. I can forget how Bosky Suggs heart collapsed; how we agreed it was consumption without a sign of it in the world. Her eyes when she brought my food. What I did changed her life. No cleaning, no company - just laundry, shoes. She said Howard and Bougler were all right but wouldn't let go each other's hands. Played that way, stayed that way ^{especially} in their sleep.

She handed me things from the basket through the bars, whispering the news: The Bowdens going to see the judge - in chambers, she kept on saying in chambers. Like I knew what it meant. That the Colored ladies of Delaware Ohio had drawn up a petition to keep me from being hanged. That two white preachers had come around and wanted to talk to me, pray for me. That a newspaperman came too. She told me the news and I told her I needed something for the rats. She wanted Denver out and slapped her palms when I wouldn't let her go. "Schultzteacher left town, she said. Filed a claim and rode on off." → ff

No gasp at ~~the~~ ^a miracle
that is truly miraculous
because the (magic) lies
in the fact that you
knew it was there
for you all along.

Sethe wiped the ^{white} Satin Coat
from the inside of the pan,
brought pillows from the
Sleeping room for the girl's
heads, and there was no
tremor in her voice as
She instructed them to
try to keep the fire - if not
come on upstairs

With that, she gathered
her blanket and
ascended the lily white
stairs like a bride

Before the vaices

Sithe in bed

postponing the pleasure of
the revelation. (→ the ^{hobnail} casket
found in the tree ^{should be} forced before
it is opened. ~~to reveal the~~
~~treasures~~ Its lock may
have rusted ~~away~~ or ~~cracked~~
it may even have broken
away from the clasp.

Still you touch the nail
heads, ~~hard~~ test its weight.

No at head smacking
before it is decently
exhumed from the grave
that has ~~hidden~~ hidden
it (so these many years)
all this time.

a - Relief that let her feel the minor pain of
her bitten tongue.

It was the first word she ^{had} spoken in all
day and it came out thick ~~and~~

because ~~the~~ of the bitten
tip of her tongue was
gone
her tender tongue
tender a
(tongue was too tender
for

and for ^{felt} saw for the first time her mother in law.
In her arms and was

- Kept ^{whole} the pictures of Howard & Buglar ^{and} whole
(re furnished) kept them
whole.
in the world

although ⁱⁿ her dreams of them
they were in pieces.

Helped her
endure the
spite of
her baby's

Kept Hall her husband shadowy - but
there - somewhere.

Chastising
Baby that

~~She~~ smiled at the two of them
and ~~des~~ ^{telling} ~~told~~ Sethe how strong
the baby was, how smart.

Crawling ^{already}. up the
stairs so much - Baby Suggs had
painted them white to keep her clean.

Then it began to ^{irritate} ~~fire~~ her -

wear her out with its

mischievous. It was then

she walked off to

follow the children

to L. J.'s house.

head - too in red.

School

Silent

compassionate

D. J. goes to Baby's bed.

55
18

3

venom. The women in the
house knew it and so did
the children. ^{for years} Each put up
with the spite in his own
way, but by 1873 ~~only~~

were left to feel the
persecution - Lizzie and
her daughter Lenore
were its only victims.

The Grandmother, Babby Suggs,
was dead, and the sons,
Howard and Buford, ^{had} ~~had~~
as ~~away~~ ^{far} away as they could.

Gone and left
Man away.

And she was grateful for that.

Carefully, carefully
mind, ~~so~~ she passed on to a reasonable
question.

~~The~~ The day ~~had~~ gone blue without its sun,
but she could ^{still} make out the black
silhouettes of ~~things in~~ ——— trees
in the meadow beyond. Sethe shook
her head from side to side ~~in~~ resigned
to a brain with a mind of its own.

In that ^{unlit daylight} ~~lightless~~ ^{by} ~~and~~ ^{he} bronzed ^{and} ~~his~~ ^{turned} ~~face~~ ^{Sethe} ~~stirred~~ ^{Steered} Sethe's heart ^{toward him and away from}

She sat up then and began to hum.
She looked at D. and frowned; perhaps. (Perhaps
~~and for~~ not.) It may have been
the tiny scratches (lines) on her
forehead may have made it seem so

✓ = Sethe
x = Paul D.

x ✓ 1. Paul F is sold. They live for 2 years on the piece

x 2. Schoolteacher and his 2 pupil-nephews come to manage Sweet Home because Mr. S. needs a white around.

✓ 3. "Stealing" dialogue with Schoolteacher and Sixo. Paul G. laughs.

✓ School teacher ~~hits~~ him (Paul G.) in chains. Wait till Halle returns & calls them all to watch: Sethe, Howard, Breyler, the ^{nursing} baby girl, Halle, Paul D, and Sixo. All watch while the man is beaten by a child. Sixo watches Schoolteacher. Sethe sees Mrs. Garner at window. Trying to open it, her mouth working.

✓ 4. Men talk - show Sethe away

✓ 5. Paul G. runs off.

✓ 5. Halle (at ^{his} night mill work) learns of a 'train' going North - they are all to escape

x ✓ 6. Paul D. says he will go alone because his brother is ~~not~~ "out there" somewhere and needs his help

x ✓ 7. Sixo says he'll make it alone also because the 30 mile woman needs him.

✓ 8. Sethe, Chedden & Halle are to go

✓ 9. He tells her to meet him
after work with the children
at the point.

✓ 10. She does - he is not there.
She puts her 3 children in the wagon.
Goes back to wait for Halle. - Every body gone

10. Little is missed - tells ~~but~~ ~~Paul~~

✓ Mrs. G. - is then beaten.
Tells Paul D. she is leaving - alone.

x 10. Sixo is gone & Paul D. ^{both} hiding.
in a ditch waiting for 30 mile ^{separate ways}

x 10. Paul D. comes across his brother's
body hanging from a tree. Shouts
screams. Is caught by neighboring
farmers & returned to Sweet Home
and Chassey. ~~there~~ Sixo is
caught, humiliated & ~~then~~ his charred
body hung from tree. Paul D. is taken
away.

while Paul D. ^{after}
is forced to watch. ^{glimpse}
Halle
at the
church.

✓ 10. Little, as she runs, alone, sees
the bodies also in a mild breeze
singing.

✓ Baby Suggs re-settlement fee

Letha's urine for the baby's eyes

Building ^{store} ~~old~~ room where back door
used to be: Stenner's walk around the house
Paul D's removals

✓ Baby's trade as a cabbage

Beloved's dance

✓ Beloved's name: "Don't you wanna be loved?"

Letha's earrings taken from her in jail:
appropriate timing as it was the end of her
efforts to "discriminate among them"

End of Stenner & Beloved's conversation in the
Cold Room: cf. mss. re: where were you be-
fore: the bridge life.

Beloved's pre-ship warran has earrings
and a pattern in her hair

Stealing: re: Corn at Halle's "wedding" "It would be
what Garner would call stealing. But how could the
owned "steal" from the owner? Anything they ate
for pleasure or strength was finally ~~the owner's~~
improving the owner's property.

Sch: Did you steal that shoat?

Sixso: No, Sir.

Sch: You didn't steal it?

Sixso: No Sir.

Sch: Did you kill it?

Sixso: Yes Sir

Sch: Did you butcher it?

Sixso: Yes Sir

CAN
STAND
WINTER

Sch: Did you cook it?
Sixo: Yes Sir
Sch: Well then. Did you eat it?
Sixo: Yes Sir.
Sch: That's not stealing!
Sixo: No. Sir.
Sch: What is it, then.
Sixo: Improving your property, Sir.
Sch: What?
Sixo: I plant rye to give the high piece a better
chance. ^{I take and} Feed the soil give you more crop
I Take and feed the slave give ^{the} more work

Clever. But he beat him anyway to show him
that definitions belonged to definers - not to the defined.

Beloved's song has no words - just the tune.
She heard from the man who died on her face.
The tune is the same as the lullaby Lillie
sang - although she made up the words.

Time and watches: Lillie knows she will be
late to work because of her "inner clock" and
the quality of light. Delete "7:00"
Sixo's time; Schoolteacher's
watch ("He consulted something they had
never before seen and when he spoke what it
revealed to him - 8:30, 2:00, 5:00 p.m. -
they didn't know what he was talking about.")
Baby Suggs got into the head
when her 'clock' broke down: wake at night:
nodding in the day etc.

Sixo has had the rites. how & why had his spirits
abandoned him: Spirit, spirit why hast thou abandoned me?
have you gone from me?
Death not important ~~of~~ or feared. humiliation
and being adrift was the terror