

## Born Yesterday

Billy Woods

Buried kin in rocky ground  
Shallow grave, how sweet the sound  
Amazing grace, first bus out of town  
Lie boldface when the Man come around  
They got 'nuff work if you can't find it  
Brought Negroes work like Caribbean island  
Old heads smiling, like "woods you wilin'"  
Mayhap, slept in the shelter with the wave cap  
Scoured the shower with Ajax  
A man's own pride'll bait traps  
Gnawed the limb, fled like rats  
Fuck outta here with them late raps

Born yesterday, but we stayed up all night  
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Rain sluices off trees, stride through wet leaves, heavy foot  
Rotted out branches, the cancer advances  
Captain hook, listening for that crocodile  
Same dark wood he knew as a child  
Fear of the forest  
Entitled white girl tasted all the porridge  
More the poorer for it  
World on fire, but he wouldn't piss on it  
Eyes burnished onyx  
They gave us special glasses to watch the comet  
I can still feel that African sun  
It wasn't just us, the whole country was young

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Outside lie dark turned fields, with rags of snow and darker woods be  
yond that harbor yet a few last wolves. A solitary migrant upon that  
flat and pastoral landscape. Blacks in the fields lank and stooped, t  
heir fingers spider-  
like among the bowls of cotton. The shadowed agony in the garden