

Yesterday, and the night, and the food - ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~plates~~ ^{plates}
 I could ~~hear~~ ^{hear} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~neighbors~~ ^{neighbors} - and the night
 with ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~voices~~ ^{voices} on the porch, through ~~the~~ ^{the}
 heavy white ~~curtains~~ ^{curtains} squared off against her on the
 bed adjacent ~~her~~ ^{her}. They could smell the honey ~~suckle~~ ^{suckle}, as always ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~flowers~~ ^{flowers}.

"I'm not staying with you any more, Mamma,"
 she'd said, her radiant ~~black~~ ^{black} face set,
 her thin lips tight.

"Honey, ~~not now~~, Nellie Catherine had
 said, ~~getting~~ ^{getting} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~idea~~ ^{idea} to go back and
 register the food and ~~guests~~ ^{guests} in the little kitchen
 off the ~~living~~ ^{living} room." (100)

"Sit down, Mamma," she'd said, sitting with
 her ~~fingers~~ ^{fingers} ~~reposed~~ ^{reposed} on the white ~~cheese~~ ^{cheese} spread.

"We got to have it out right now."

"You mind who you're talking to, if my lady?"

Nellie Catherine had said, though ~~small~~ ^{small} ~~black~~ ^{black} ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes}
^{chinked} teeth, ~~black~~ ^{black} ~~teeth~~ ^{teeth} & ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes} both had ~~sharp~~ ^{sharp} ~~features~~ ^{features},
 hands, feet, eyes, large breasts, ^{swung} way ~~the~~ ^{the}
 the ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~waiter~~ ^{waiter} in two ~~countries~~ ^{countries}. And ~~her~~ ^{her}
 hips ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~allow~~ ^{allow} ~~leg~~ ^{leg}.

"Just as your Mamma, every body ~~told~~ ^{told} ~~you~~ ^{you}
 she never was all that friendly ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the}
¹⁶⁸ ~~neighbors~~ ^{neighbors}; but then she'd been
~~shown~~ ^{shown} by Nellie Catherine to ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~set~~ ^{set} ~~her~~ ^{her}
 sights high. Nellie Catherine had grown
 her to go away; not really ~~believing~~ ^{believing} she
 would, but just to show ~~them~~ ^{them} she could fly
 she cared, too. That seemed like a good
 start to Nellie Catherine. She'd never thought
 about the end. Not this.

"I'm moving out, Mamma," she'd said "You
 might as well make up your mind to get used to
 the idea."

Nellie Catherine did so hate it when ~~she~~ ^{she'd} reverted back to the ^{account} ~~day~~ she'd picked up going to ~~the~~ ^{her} ~~general~~ ^{her} school, following her brother to the river ^{to swim} in summer. They'd looked out for her, Sam & Denver, the best they could. She had ^{of} got in trouble like some. And her already 21. That was a good start. But the end?

"Oh, God! Mother!" she moaned.
 "Mama!" ~~she~~ ^{she} hissed. ~~Nellie Catherine~~ ^{Nellie Catherine} felt foolish, childish. ~~to you & too old.~~ ^{to you & too old.} ~~she~~ ^{she} said it to her ~~mother~~ ^{mother} ~~as a child~~ ^{as a child} ~~she~~ ^{she} could fear herself ~~talking~~ ^{talking} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~definitely~~ ^{definitely} ~~instead~~ ^{instead} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~she~~ ^{she} decided it was to her advantage to be scolded.

She ~~cried~~ ^{wept} ~~openly~~ ^{silently} ¹⁰⁰ pressing her face into the ~~linen~~ ^{linen} sleeve. ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~shoulder~~ ^{shoulder}.
 She'd cried last night also, openly, as ~~she~~ ^{she} lay on the bed next to her's. She couldn't see her in the dark but knew her face was turned to the wall.

She had heard someone ^{sitting up for the wake} ~~on~~ ^{attending} the front porch ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~wake~~ ^{wake}, remark, "Nellie Catherine's shore taking it hard."

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She'd always conducted herself like a lady, had practiced good taste ^{so people well know} ~~know~~ ^{know} what ~~was~~ ^{was} appropriate, how to hold her emotions in check, she'd have them know! No heathens ¹⁰⁰ raised like that bunch around her. ~~But she~~ ^{But she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~neighborly~~ ^{neighborly} ~~enough~~ ^{enough}. ~~Well~~ ^{Well} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~never~~ ^{never} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~ill~~ ^{ill} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~others~~ ^{others}. ~~That~~ ^{That} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~hard~~ ^{hard} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't} ~~know~~ ^{know} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~difference~~ ^{difference}.

Will, Let them think she was grieving for her ~~mother~~ ^{mother}, but the shame & disgrace of her own daughter walking off and leaving her, when she needed her, was more than she could bear.

God, how ~~Nellie~~ ^{Nellie Catherine} hated for that busy body ^{body} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~hear~~ ^{hear} that her only daughter would leave her! Not that ~~her~~ ^{Becky} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~Sherry~~ ^{Sherry} ~~Kate~~ ^{Kate} had done better. Two young ones already at 20, living right beside her in a cheap mobile home.

"Here you go," ~~Ma~~ ^{Ma} said, handing her the ~~white~~ ^{white} ~~cloth~~ ^{cloth}.

~~Ma~~ ^{Ma} ~~said~~ ^{said} "Map my face for me, Honey, please," Nellie Catherine ~~said~~ ^{said} "I feel a bit peaked this morning." She lay back on ~~Ma's~~ ^{Ma's} ~~lap~~ ^{lap} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~stared~~ ^{stared} at her. ~~Ma~~ ^{Ma} ~~stroked~~ ^{stroked} her brow. ~~Ma~~ ^{Ma} ~~left~~ ^{left} the ~~cloth~~ ^{cloth} folded on her ~~bed~~ ^{bed} and walked away.

"You better get up and get ready," she said.

"We've got to go to funeral home after every body gets here."

"~~Ma~~ ^{Ma}," Nellie Catherine called. There was no answer. ~~She~~ ^{She} ~~left~~ ^{left} the cloth in

place and she faced the ~~door~~ ^{door} behind it. She could smell death, ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~stayed~~ ^{stayed} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~air~~ ^{air} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~preserved~~ ^{preserved} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~flowers~~ ^{flowers} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~prolonged~~ ^{prolonged} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~fragrance~~ ^{fragrance}.

She would look her best, she thought, ~~spitting~~ ^{spitting} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~floor~~ ^{floor}. She had her pride.

Chiquard entered and said "Good morning" in his husky, reserved ~~voice~~ ^{voice}.

"You need anything?" he asked. His ~~square~~ ^{square} ~~face~~ ^{face} looked ~~like~~ ^{like} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~trouble~~ ^{trouble} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated}.

was going to the bathroom if you want 7 ~~pushing~~ ^{pushing} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~go~~ ^{go}.

"Go on," she said, ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~wondering~~ ^{wondering} why she'd married him ~~instead~~ ^{instead} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~guy~~ ^{guy} ~~like~~ ^{like} ~~Samuel~~ ^{Samuel} ~~Maine~~ ^{Maine}.

a home boy like ~~Samuel~~ ^{Samuel} ~~Maine~~ ^{Maine}. She'd thought ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~trouble~~ ^{trouble} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~trouble~~ ^{trouble} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated}. She'd taken on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~she~~ ^{she} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~trouble~~ ^{trouble} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated}. She'd set apart, longing to go, compelled to stay.

