

Little Angel - funeral death

clock stops on 6:00

On _____ it rains, starting with a warm drizzle and building to steady cold downpour that pounds like ~~stones~~ ^{urns} on the roof and walls of Louise's stuffy gaseous trailer. So much racket it overpowers the squeals and cries of the children, ^{the TV} almost ^{TV} ~~ridiculous~~ time -- not that the mothers are ever on time -- and the children are so weary of Louise and she is of them.

So back of check book many children which sends

Six o'clock and abnormally dark and still _____ three children and ~~Drammer's~~ ^{Drummer's} Little Angel are plundering and spilling and fussing. Little Angel is curled on the couch ^{under a patch of work, quiet} sucking her thumb & fidgeting her plucking at her braids, drowsy liquid eyes fixed on Louise in the kitchen stirring the pot of vegetable soup she has concocted out of hambone & leftovers. [Blood & Beans & Popcorn]

"Look like any ~~one~~ ^{body} but me ~~at a clock~~," she mumbles ^{lowly} ^{to the children} ^{brother} ^{Tommy} ^{Tommy} ^{boy} ^{child} ^{little} ^{boy} ^{like a} ^{mommy} ^{Stop} ^{that} ^{monster}. Y'all roll up ever bit of that paper and 'put it back, hear?"

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The ^{4 year old} boy with the oversized head, begins stripping the paper from his sister, and when the front door swings wide and _____ appear both children dash out with toilet paper straining behind them into the rain. "Miss Louise," says _____, "Drammer say ~~you~~

She consider going out & buying the chicken
brock inside and feeding them some of her
vegetable soup. Feels guilty as she sits down
& starts eating, but can't help enjoying the best
tomato soup. Even watching the ^{white} snow thru the
window, still and dark inside, the big butted
running in her white nurse uniform look across
the dark dusky yard toward the car.

"Don't time," says Louise, ^{and} eating a
hunk of ham from the soup and eating.

— opens the door at the driver
side, gets in, slams the door, jumps
out and begins yanking children from the car,
^{and yelling,} ~~long~~ bodies piling on the yard between the
car & the trailer.

Louise overturn the trash bag on the
way out the door, the image of the clock
forever stopped on four staying on her head
as she stumbles numb into the cold rain
that feels doesn't leaves her body burning inside.

"Carbon monoxide poisoning," yells
"Sweet!", she yells, "Hey, Sweet,
call for an ambulance."

Sweet, on her porch, heads inside
slamming the door.

By the time Louise reaches the children
— boy & girl are moaning, sitting up, ^{crying,}

with _____ screaming & the rain streaming down,
But Little Angel just lies there with her head
cocked up & her eyes ~~staring~~ blank, rain
ponding on her green knit shirt & pants and ~~them~~
braids bound in ~~twisted~~ machine-gun colored beads.
Louise scoops her up, ^{cradling,} "Baby, wake up,"
she says. "You be awright, You be awright."
The child's head falls back exposing her cream
neck.

The other children are screaming now, and ~~people~~
~~the~~ ^{some} quarters pour through the gap in the hedge,
tripping over the hedge. Bloop & Beanie & Raper
seem to appear, solemn-faced and silent,
watching Louise rocking. So much ^{wailing} ~~screaming~~ all
around, while the rain goes on as if nothing
has changed.

The rain stops for the funeral on Sunday at the
white church at the south curve, sun on the tiny white ^{car} ~~car~~ ^{goes} into & out of the church
but the ~~service~~ ^{service} goes on, a ~~rain~~ ^{rain}
the other women ^{wailing} but not Louise. She never ^{make} ~~shed~~
a tear sound, just cries inside her hot body as if
her heart has ruptured and hot blood is coursing ^{they} ~~through~~ ^{her}
That ^{moonlight} ~~night~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{she} ~~like~~ ^{take} the patch work
Bloop & Beanie ^{pull} ~~from~~ the couch, goes out the door and
walks to the cemetery behind the church, heavy ~~Drum~~
wailing inside her falling down home. Walking among the
Graves, she sees Lov's headstone in the moonlight,

steps over his grave & walks on toward the
small raw dirt grave no larger than a
~~stone~~. She knelt down & spread the
quilt over the grave & placed the flock face forward
stopped at the top.

