



Susannah/ Lucille and Dolores

Excerpts from "Pathology", a series of poems in
"Swallowing the Sky"

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Susannah/ Lucille

"Susannah" was too hard to say
Her Chinese bosses said "Lucille"
Lucille had a better ring
And got one
Gold
"Susannah Abraham" she shed like old, tight skin
Became
Lucille Gonzales
Baptist
Mother
Beyond reproach
It had been Susannah
Who'd met Rambaran Ramdeen
His father owned the bus she took
Disowned the child she bore
I searched for Susannah
In my grandmother's face
Found only Lucille
When Charlie Abraham put her out
Susannah died

Dolores

Lynn had been
Susannah's nigger child
Bastard born
Doubly disowned
Shuffled from hand to hand
A pack of cards
Marasmic
Hollow eyed
She survived the Convent schooling
That Susannah paid for by waiting tables
In a Chinese restaurant
Charlie Abraham's daughter brought low
Susannah never called her Lynn
She called her Dolores
Woman of Sorrows
Lady of Tears
By her own admission
Dolsie studied boys, not books
Followed in
Susannah's footsteps
Soon enough