

Poem from the chapbook Lincoln.

Jeb

There was something about one of the women who spoke  
after the Zimmerman verdict/he was freed  
the state attorney with her hair in a Florida/Texas type upswing  
with sassy eyes and that smirk that made me see George Jeb  
back room deals, handshakes, disguised voices, walks on the ranch  
nothing that will ever go on record  
a voice whispering we're gonna get this country back from the nigras  
Something in the way she smirked looked like a high five  
and fist bump to George Jeb and the rest  
Behind her I could see that NRA fanatic Clint Eastwood talking  
to an empty chair pretending it was President Obama  
I could see handshakes and winks between Sarah Palin and Arnold  
saying we're gonna get this country back from the nigras  
On another continent a long time ago Clarence Thomas  
would have been necklaced  
and George Zimmerman is lucky to have never seen jail time  
because he might have gotten the Jeffrey Dahmer treatment  
found in a broom closet  
Condoleeza is not an achievement  
she's just a girl forever eager to please her white father  
would sell anything for that stamped approval  
Watching her come out and speak at the Republican National Convention  
was like watching Philadelphia's first Black Mayor  
drop a bomb on a family of screaming Black people  
babies set fire  
drowning in Katrina while she smiled that American smile  
and the children were drowning  
they couldn't swim

You have to understand Trayvon was never a child  
walking to and from the grocery store buying skittles and an ice-tea  
hardly a menu for crime  
he was already a fugitive with a warrant for his arrest dating back 450 years  
ever since he and his descendants made the middle passage  
stood on an auction block  
deemed some else's property George Zimmerman echoing bounty hunters  
and lynch mobs of eons past they always get away but not this one  
from this day forward I promise to never go anywhere  
talking about inhumanity and human rights violations  
to let my eyes gleam with gore  
talking about clitoris removal  
until we talk about here ...  
what's been destroyed cut off maimed