

hiding—

III.

John says he is listening to your concerns.

8-year-old Franklin of Guatemala was
reunited with his father and watching them
embrace right now it is possible to forget
the latest counts

250 or 559 or more than 400
at least 2,000¹ (maybe 14,000)²
186, or more than 10,000³
500 or 2,000 as many as 15,000⁴
btw 200 or 300 and 500, or 2,000⁵

Jakelin-Albertha-Savanna-

colonies of birds are already in decline. cite predation.

and yes I
can still cry while showing you
my teeth, but
I couldn't tell you why I feel
vertigo
in the bed
in the house where
I
was a child
only,

This is America and it is (year-of-our-supposed-lord) 2018.

This is America since 1492.

This is America, we were born taking children from their mothers and their fathers.

This is America and we've been taking babies from mothers with too many babies (I.O.O.) in your lifetime.

¹ migrant children forcibly separated from their parents at the Southern border under the Trump administration

² number of immigrant children held in U.S. detention centers

³ number of children buried at the Carlisle Indian School, number of children separated from their families to attend the Carlisle Indian School; (in the 19th and 20th centuries, there were 60, 106, or 350 government-funded Indian boarding schools)

⁴ number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; despite the disproportionate frequency with which this population experiences violence, databases are incomplete; statistics for crimes against indigenous women in urban areas are even more unreliable and prone to be incorrectly labeled

⁵ number of Alutiiq people massacred by Shelikhov in an "extreme case" of "self-defense" when they refused to turn over hostages and trade highly valued otter furs in high demand with buyers in China.

This is America and I want to tell you too it is beautiful
but
—vindictive or entombed—

Now we are sending soldiers to the mothers with their children fleeing soldiers we inspired to threaten mothers with their children.

Still we are burying women with their mouths closed.
Still we are buying women with our mouths closed.

Still we are missing.

IV.

Not all the children have come home not all the children come home not all the children are children get to be children will have children.

V.

“Yeah, well, [kids]* get stolen. That’s how it goes.”

**he might have said “land.” he might have said “women.” he might have been smiling respectfully to diffuse the situation.*

VI.

A snake-body-water once told me girls
who get carried away like that are capable of
changing into birds
why not fish as well or
wolves come to that
if you’re going to leave her body in
a sunken state
after all I’m not the first
to tell stories about wolves
in the water.

VII.

The first deer had large teeth and no horns and
were not afraid.

Water drips through stone.

Girls get thrown from the boat
become witches in need of a good comb.

So the story goes

how it goes.

There is in many a hungry one
inside.

The men give each other warning and
in this they are fair:

if the sea witch appear before you
best tuck your tail and run.

VIII.

What if *Jakelin* you were a seed?
What if *Savanna* you were a woman
for the end and beginning
the world?

Now you put on your extra skin
now you take out your extra teeth
wash the blood in the high tide.

IX.

Women were killed

“by fire, by water, by hanging in air, burying in earth,
by asphyxiation, penetration, striking, piercing, crushing in a thousand
and one ways.”

You forgot exposure (which Patricia knows in Montana may include stabbing).

X.

The first deer had too large teeth and
not enough fear to be caught.

XI.

Now you don't see us
Now you don't

I'm not going to play
your blackout games

but know:

my teeth still shine
in the dark.

a body buried still

speaks.

above or
below

don't imagine there is nothing at the bottom
of the sea.

XII.

The way to manage any population
is with wolves.