



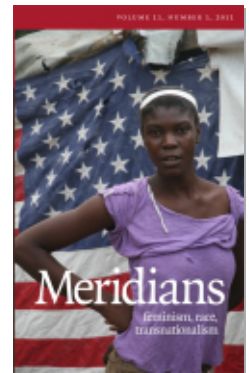
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because john doe is not a haitian name

Lenelle Moïse

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LENELLE MOÏSE

## because john doe is not a haitian name

a rotting smell  
where the school once stood  
a hungry shrill  
where the guava tree grew  
last night before the earth  
ate port-au-prince  
a bleeding orphan was  
somebody's baby

& that somebody  
was pretty or plain  
& that somebody  
was saucy or shrinking  
& that somebody  
made love, made mistakes  
& that somebody  
ate mosquitoes, chewed cane

[*Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* 2011, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 106–107]  
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& léogâne  
served the lwa, praised the lord  
& jacmel  
danced well, clapped instead  
& carrefour  
had a temper, had a gift  
& that somebody atop  
a mass grave

knew *marie, dieudonne, tantee*  
knew *yves-pierre, jean-jean, timarc*  
who will christen  
those who named us  
with intention?  
a poet also  
died  
in the earthquake.