



6-15-2008

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Recommended Citation

Cooperman, Robert (2008) "Brutus Hawkins, Bouncer, Speaks of the Widow Burden," *Westview*: Vol. 28 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol28/iss1/31>

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Brutus Hawkins, Bouncer, Speaks of the Widow Burden

by Robert Cooperman

If Jezebel'd insisted
I kidnap the Widow,
we'd've had our first argument.
She mentioned it once;
miners, she declared,
crazy for a preacher's angel.

Much as I admire Jezzy's brains,
and her talent in our four-poster,
I couldn't bear to think
of anyone suffering slavery.
I recalled Libbie
from the slave days,
dragged back after she ran.

I hid behind Mama's skirt,
but a house servant
made me watch;
Libbie's back raw
as a fresh-slaughtered sow,
her shrieks filling the yard
like Satan's church bell.

When Jezzy proposed
we kidnap the Widow,
I put one big hand
over her mouth, real gentle;
then we did what we do best,
no more talk of forcing
whoring, slave ways on anyone.

