

Cassie Edlund Bradley Univeristy (Done)

📅 Fri, 3/13 1:49PM ⌚ 10:31

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

ai, boy, mothers, blood, sabrina fulton, women, sabrina, metaphor, movement, eye, tore, lesley, murdered, bones, black, mamie, thick, split, body, son

SPEAKERS

Cassie Edlund

-  Cassie Edlund 00:21
Pick
-  Cassie Edlund 00:23
a metaphor.
-  Cassie Edlund 00:25
the tree, the fruit, the soil, the blood, the blood blood, blood.
-  Cassie Edlund 00:34
The women
-  Cassie Edlund 00:37
whose children will be buried before them.
-  Cassie Edlund 00:42
Lose a lot blood in delivery, their water breaks torentially,
-  Cassie Edlund 00:48
their bones go soft as yolk

C Cassie Edlund 00:52
each contraction a snatch (breath) ing hand, a howl in a place you wanna rub

C Cassie Edlund 01:00
But can't reach a deliberate flood.

C Cassie Edlund 01:05
The way a dam breaks before swallowing the whole city

C Cassie Edlund 01:10
and a woman's body can be just like that.

C Cassie Edlund 01:14
It'll announce, a funeral better than a gun

C Cassie Edlund 01:16
shot can.

C Cassie Edlund 01:19
The gun

C Cassie Edlund 01:22
the bullet,

C Cassie Edlund 01:24
the prison, the hanging, the mothers, the tears, the graveyard,

C Cassie Edlund 01:30
the women whose children

C Cassie Edlund 01:33
are murdered.

C Cassie Edlund 01:35
Labor

C Cassie Edlund 01:38
Is foreshadow. It tells about the bones and the breaking and the temporary nature of things.

C Cassie Edlund 01:50
Ain't that

C Cassie Edlund 01:53
a metaphor.

C Cassie Edlund 02:01
This past June, Paramount Network released Rest in Power, a docu series featuring Sabrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin. For the first time Fulton offers an unfiltered lens to interviewers covering the story of her son's death. However, black activist, Cindy Paul had a different response to the series, arguing the interviews only care about how Fulton's son contributes to the Black Lives Matter movement. Asking questions like what would be success for the movement? What is your reaction to clashes between police and protesters? And what should the black community do? Completely disregarding her experience as a black mother, placing Sabrina Fulton like several other black women on a national stage, a stage once again demanding black mothers swallow their personal stories and grief. To better decorate our movement. Mm hmm. So to the poetry, "Mothers of Murdered Sons" by Dominique Christina and "What We Become" by Ebony Stewart. A single voice performance dedicated to the women who became a face of a movement they didn't ask for a part in.

C Cassie Edlund 03:11
Women keep their own magic.

C Cassie Edlund 03:16
But you better believe in a God or something like it is when a son is being born. How do you think women go in as one but come out as two?

C Cassie Edlund 03:24
They say the last person to split themselves like that was Jesus, ain't that right, you've been to Sunday school.

C Cassie Edlund 03:32
You know, 3 in one. One in three women have always

C Cassie Edlund 03:39
been of the super terrestrial mathematics of becoming themselves since before Eve.

C Cassie Edlund 03:45
Mamie Till

C Cassie Edlund 03:47
Laid up nine hours trying to pull that boy through her quaking thighs.

C Cassie Edlund 03:52
Sharpened her teeth

C Cassie Edlund 03:54
on ice chips, whispered prayers

C Cassie Edlund 03:56
that didn't belong to nobody's God. Nipples like church steeples just high and hard reach up to the sky to bring that boy

C Cassie Edlund 04:04
here and he was a fat thing, too.

C Cassie Edlund 04:10

Just came up grinnin' and full of himself.

C Cassie Edlund 04:14
Came from the thick heat

C Cassie Edlund 04:16
of her body. Smacking

C Cassie Edlund 04:18
his lips, always hungry, see. Always hungry, took 'em a while to clean Emmett up.

C Cassie Edlund 04:29
Took even longer to get Mamie to stop spilling every bit of herself all over that stark,

C Cassie Edlund 04:34
white room and some of that blood had never been cleaned up.

C Cassie Edlund 04:40
Now ain't that a metaphor

C Cassie Edlund 04:44
For always?


C Cassie Edlund 04:47
Now,

C Cassie Edlund 04:50
Sabrina Fulton is a ritual. She stony, stoic.


C Cassie Edlund 04:55
Her face. Don't move much.


- C Cassie Edlund 04:58
Like a closed door with too many key holes and no keys each new sorrow a padlock welded shut except
her eyes
- C Cassie Edlund 05:09
her eyes carry stories even when she won't.
- C Cassie Edlund 05:13
Ever since her youngest boy
- C Cassie Edlund 05:14
got killed. You can't look her in the eye. If you do, Sabrina's gonna be with you with her suffering.
- C Cassie Edlund 05:22
It ain't how she wants it.
- C Cassie Edlund 05:25
It's just how it is.
- C Cassie Edlund 05:28
The Skittles.
- C Cassie Edlund 05:31
You remember the Skittles,
- C Cassie Edlund 05:33
the hoodie, the black suits, the casket, the funeral, printed, broadcasted,
- C Cassie Edlund 05:39
.. . . .

the news, a hashtag, gone too soon.


 Cassie Edlund 05:42
Still something needs to be said


 Cassie Edlund 05:46
about how Trayvon's head just about split


 Cassie Edlund 05:48
Sabrina in two like something thundering out from underneath her with a hatchet in his hands. And when I tell you bled you better know she bled. Sabrina, almost had to get a blood transfusion because that boy tore her up.


 Cassie Edlund 06:10
So much blood.

 Cassie Edlund 06:16
Looks like she didn't keep any for herself.

 Cassie Edlund 06:21
Doctors and nurses running trying to get

 Cassie Edlund 06:24
that woman to stop flooding that room with the

 Cassie Edlund 06:27
red paint grafitti of boys who gotta get here but can't figure it out without tearing shit up first.

 Cassie Edlund 06:35
Now ain't that a metaphor



C Cassie Edlund 06:39
for always.

C Cassie Edlund 06:43
Now Lesley.

C Cassie Edlund 06:47
Lesley doesn't

C Cassie Edlund 06:48
come from anything that bends

C Cassie Edlund 06:51
as easy or apologizes as much.

C Cassie Edlund 06:55
She comes from something old. Her people

C Cassie Edlund 06:58
split wood, tapped trees, picked cotton, tried it, you know.

C Cassie Edlund 07:02
Tried to make a living with plenty of work and public transportation and enough white folk who would look you in the eye even if it was just to spit

C Cassie Edlund 07:09
in it.

C Cassie Edlund 07:12
You been hungry long enough that's all the holy you know to look for, Lesley.





Cassie Edlund 08:09

Left in the middle of a dirt road bleeding, little kids squalling, old folks hollerin', peace be still and Lesley was in the thick of it all, just watching the boy she fought her own body for



Cassie Edlund 08:22

The one who barely made it out of high school. The one she alchemized



Cassie Edlund 08:27

from her simple



Cassie Edlund 08:28

womb, laid up, servicing the



Cassie Edlund 08:32

[illegible]

Cassie Edlund 08:43

So much of it



Cassie Edlund 08:47

just like when he was born and they had to cut her to pull



Cassie Edlund 08:51

him through, how her blood got in



Cassie Edlund 08:54

his eye, how he couldn't seem to



Cassie Edlund 08:56

forget the trauma of inheriting a body like the one he had.

- C Cassie Edlund 09:00
The way we all ended up with it in our eyes. The sit ins, the boycotts, the silent protest, the movement, the lesson.
- C Cassie Edlund 09:00
The prayers of
- C Cassie Edlund 09:00
The boy whose blood started a riot.
- C Cassie Edlund 09:18
mothers with murdered sons don't reach heaven anymore.
- C Cassie Edlund 09:26
And maybe they never did.
- C Cassie Edlund 09:31
And maybe God is a charlatan
- C Cassie Edlund 09:34
pinching pennies to the sound of black boys breaking the world with their
- C Cassie Edlund 09:38
bleeding maybe He was too busy with more righteous indignation
- C Cassie Edlund 09:42
Maybe the melody ain't right, not enough Eucharist in these boys to matter to the omnipresent,
- C Cassie Edlund 09:48
Nevertheless seemingly absentee father maybe

C Cassie Edlund 09:51
he was too busy to see that he's not the only one with a murdered son.

C Cassie Edlund 10:02
What about these God?

C Cassie Edlund 10:07
What about these?

C Cassie Edlund 10:14
Ain't that

C Cassie Edlund 10:17
a metaphor?