

Bronzeville Women

BY KIMBERLY REYES

*"...that part is not true."
—Carolyn Bryant Donham*

Gwendolyn woke me up this morning:
child, stop sulking
the grace you scorn we've always worn.

See, it was always him
and her
in the Tallahatchie.

I had to tell Carolyn's story
to keep pen to pad—
you think we only get *Quatrains*

but what happens to us
is them, the collective stain
that weakens the quilt, fastens chains.

