

index of a Sycoraxian islet drowned by wind, rocked by reef and bone of blood borne humanoids (part 1)

Yesha Townsend

Afeared, 1609

bodies flung on salt washed sand, the muscle worked through seas of uproar
like steed, such stalwart youth, adapting from starboard to wreck - to haunted isle this
vexed, this be-deviled - dithering their blood, and skulls and chests

Basset, Sally, 1730

baked the sun herself, oh chile, so hot the sun sweat buckets and swum to
sky in decay - but Sally, they say, a pyre of flesh, body made bloom of ash and
blistering light

Cahow, 1612

housed the devils that prey on the ships, that spiral the tempests (counterclockwise)
that howl, like owl but haunt, that witch the bewitching twilight - such docile beasts are
these that tame to the touch - there aren't enough here to finish

Crab, 199 (something)

last time they click clacked cross South Shore Road the powers that be were still trying to stitch the hole in
the sky - it won't be too long now (on this burning globe) till the crabs are gone and not like the last time
they, by the dozens came to home cross the street breaching law and sea level

Gombey, 1831 (or so)

wave, dip, slide, bend, jump, skank boy, black boy skank. pull arrow through bow, snug
tomahawk to neck, skip and twist (by own means) to roots under crisp white Chuck
Taylors. that sound of juncanoo and carnival and sway of the stilt walker - ain't no still
when you come by boy - snare, nanny goat drum and whip

Salt, 1806

sent our Mary - *full of grace* - to rake the salt on the Turks - our Lord with thee - in boils
roiling under achilles and his lacking talus - our Mary a dead sea, floating all of our irons
in her blood, on her back, she had the rheumatism (bearing us) us with our flavors
tart and running and **f r e e** with all the salt we need

Note: This poem is an interpretive response based on the *Hall of History*, a mural created by Bermudian Graham Foster, located in the Commissioner's House at the National Museum of Bermuda in Dockyard, Bermuda