

# AUNT CHLOE

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## Nat Turner on August 13 after Recently Whipped, Left Alone to Lick His Wounds

*by Kayla Reado*

### **Nat Turner on August 13 after Recently Whipped, Left Alone to Lick His Wounds**

Clouds the shade of possum fur are moistening  
the wooly hair of Nathaniel; his hunting shirt the  
tint of yellowed bible paper is in strips.  
His curly chest is ascending and  
descending at an erratic rate. His back is  
slashed and iridescent rain pellets are  
washing the ichor away, glowing  
blood diamonds.  
Nathaniel is genuflected,  
feeling the cold of moist grass seep through  
the knees of his trousers. Rain pellets are pooling  
his upward-raised palms the color of the cotton-like billow

on sunny days where the leather and the sky both crack.

Bloodied on Goliath's

stone lies a smokey-eyed, emerald-scaled snake

whose belly is bloated. Nathaniel moves to grip

a sharp pale blue stone, cuts the belly of the beast, removes

a wad a paper. No matter the guts and blood the wad

does not stain. He reads the message, supports it in his

palm and plants a kiss to its center.

**Kaylo Reado**, is a 20 year-old writer from New Orleans, Louisiana, who creates art across media. She started writing poetry in high school and continues to do so in college. Last, spring, Kayla was a finalist for the 2019 Edith A. Hambie Poetry Prize at Spelman College.