

multiple locks = protect

old ladies + GI Bill = Baby Boomers
artifact - surrounded - crowded houses

memory thick - thick memories [ward play]
+ rock head - sugar skulls

King vs military = war / peace

afros + dashiki = ^{pure} pride

graduation + cap curl = manipulated pride

Brooks Brothers vs Cross Colours

- board rooms
- white
- bronx
- black

Bibles -

KJV - family or baptismal

NWR - Jehovah witness

pocket - for ^{war} prison etc } call back moment

spare - extra bible or a gun

Global visions - serving time { military
prison

the leaf - big dinner, reunion

the whole family - united across the street { imagery

- razor blades - tool & weapon
- triple fades - drugs + alcohol + love
- fitted caps - gangster life
- triple beams - scale
- mayo jars - cooking

Neighbors - humanity

- ghosts - dead
- shreds - memories

Old ladies and dope boys

I.

[protection]

Behind doors with multiple locks, old ladies sit silent, their GI bill homes kept from fading by green gardens and fresh paint. They sit silent, artifact-surrounded, memory thick: skinned knees, rock heads, uncles, sweaters and aprons floured. Framed photos of Dr. King, military uniforms, perfect afros, graduation caps, S-curly, dashikis, Brooks Brothers and Cross Colours.

Black culture in Print

Archived on the shelf: Ebony, Essence, Black Enterprise, Jet. The engraved King James Bible next to the 10th Edition New World Revised Bible next to the pocket-sized Bible. Some spare in the drawer.

unclear

When you come home from Global Visions, they get a ride to the grocery store across town. The good one. The bus stopped running here in the 1980s. They cook for you, just you, a full family meal, hoping the aroma will lure. Then maybe the leaf can be slid through the dining room table.

II.

separation

Across the street, the whole family razor blades and triple fades, fitted caps stooping over triple beams and mayonnaise jars. Baking soda water boils. Once it hardens, they chop.

Neighbors morph into ghosts, into shreds, while the talented tenth look ahead like Lot.

↳ desevtion
destruction

III.

Detroit blocks. Old ladies and dope boys stand off on porches, unafraid. Neither buying what the other is selling.

no relationship