Ink

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Ink

after Terrance Hayes

This page. This print. This black. This brown. This black. This ink. This name. This land. This mouth / in print. This cry / in the box and the shadow in flames where I stood. This fire is not my name, this name is not my box. How often must a word be said? How dark must a letter be typed? Typed like that, like this. This stanza, this color. These tracks. How, like that / or like the knuckle bone, the tooth. This mouth. This ink. This ink in the mouth. This print. This poem in a box, this empty box, this shoe / that foot / this mouth in a box. This mouth in a mouth. That foot in the flame. Typed like a last name, typed like / this body of ink. How deep must the ink sink? How long will the touch stain? Blood in the mouth. Blood on the map. Map of a land. Name in ink. Ink in the blood. Black in the name. Name in print. Light in the box / light / in the mouth. Mouth on the flame. Flame in a box. Box on the mouth. Mouth on a map. Map over flame. Flame under skin. Burns on the skin. Burns on the land. Burns on the map typed like the name on / a box. Typed like burns on the skin, typed like this.