
Bathsheba

How did the baby die?
I think of Itys
how the raped-woman Philomel's sister
Procne
killed the rapist's child
and fed it to him for dinner.

How did the baby die?
David saw you bathing
from his rooftop
saw you alone in your private room
not-so-private, not-so-alone.
He brought you there to his castle
he lay with you raped you
and he murdered your man.

So I ask, how did the baby die?
The prophet
Nathan
says his god reached down and
plucked the child's life.
An opportune assumption of power.
That's right, scare the man
make him think his god stole his son.

But wouldn't he have been more afraid,
wouldn't he have been more disturbed
if he had seen Bathsheba
drop the poison in the baby's mouth,
if he had seen the wrath he sowed,

when he sowed his seed within her,
sprout in the murder.

A baby spawned by violation--
if he had seen Bathsheba murder
his child, her child
would he have raped her again?