

How to Craft an American Scapegoat

make him a young boy in a project yard
make his pants sag like a deferred dream
make his momma not his real momma, his
daddy, ghost. fill his eyes & mouth with bias
so he resembles a child not like your child
but one blood-born and raised in a dung-sack
nation. make his hands rebel against the Union
by putting a pistol in his hands, christen him:
militant or desperado, someone who preys
on his neighbors, brothers, sisters and friends,
as a reaper who wants the chances that you
took. make him an aftermath or compilation
of fraught, dead things. make his house one
created dangerously with memories & essays
about the tired-poor, huddled masses yearning
to breathe free. make him a colossus of ails and
depredation. make him Lazarus. make him Black.