

Emmett Till (1941–1955)

cattail cast tattles Till tale,

lowing low along the hollow.

crickets chirrup and ribbits lick-up.

what's chucked the 'hatchie swallow.

skin scow skiffs upon pond scum skin

going slow along the hollow.

now may mayfly alight brown brow.

what's chucked the 'hatchie swallow.

maybe bye baby bye baby by and by—

lowing low along the hollow—

we will slip the knot not slip will we?

what's chucked the 'hatchie swallow.

who's a bruise to blue hue 'hatchie,

going slow along the hollow?

who's a bruise to whose hue, 'hatchie?

what's chucked the 'hatchie swallow.

Kodak flash tattles Till tale

going slow among the hollow.

who's a bruise to bruise hue?

swallow what the 'hatchie chucks.

# Tallahatchie Lullabye, Baby

Douglas Kearney

Cobalt Poets Series # 213 - December 8, 2009 - PoetrySuperHighway.com/cobalt - Author photo by Los Jackson

Douglas Kearney's work as a poet, performer and librettist has been featured in many fine publications and venues in print, in-the-flesh and in digital code. His first full-length collection of poems, *Fear, Some*, was published in 2006 (Red Hen Press). His second manuscript, *The Black Automaton*, was chosen by Catherine Wagner for the National Poetry Series and will be published by Fence Books in November 2009. In 2008, he was honored with a Whiting Writers' Award. He lives in the Valley with his family and teaches courses in African American poetry, opera and myth at California Institute of the Arts.

