Beloved - Quotes and events

6 'she worked hard to remember as close to nothing as was safe.' - memory of boys 'hanging from the most beautiful sycamores in the world'
18- Paul D gets rid of ghost
19
16 'all I knew was I had to get my milk to my baby girl.' (17 - obsessed with loss of milk)
23 A man ain't nothing but a man ... But a son? Well now, that's somebody.
In all of Baby's life ... men and women were moved around like checkers. Anybody Baby Suggs knew, let alone loved, who hadn't run off or been hanged, got rented out, loaned out, bought up, brought back, stored up, mortgaged, won, stolen or seized. So Baby's eight children had six fathers. What she called the nastiness of life was the shock she received upon learning that nobody stopped playing checkers just because the pieces included her children.
29 Denver's 'memory' of her birth - 'Easily she stepped into the told story ..'
30 'seth's mother - 'who was pointed out to her ... as the one among many backs turned away from her'
35 'Anything dead coming back to life hurts' - also 78 - 'nothing can heal without pain'
36 If a house burns down, it's gone, but the place - the picture of it - stays, and not just in my rememory - it's out there, in the world.'
38-9 colour - 'it was clear why Baby Suggs was so starved of colour ... it was as though one day she saw red baby blood, another day the pink gravestone chips, and that was the last of it.'
42 'To Sethe, the future was a matter of keeping the past at bay.'
45 'Risky, thought Paul D, very risky. For a used-to-be slave woman to love anything that much was dangerous, especially if it was her children she had settled on to love. 'The best thing, he knew, was to love just a little bit ..'
47/9 shadows (also 57)
50 Beloved arrives - 51 - Sethe's bladder fills
58 'Sethe learned the profound satisfaction Beloved got from story telling. 'It amazed Sethe .. because every mention of her past life hurt. 'Everything in it was painful or lost.'
60- Sethe talks about her mother
62
69- Paul D tells Sethe about Halle. 'Nothing happened, and she was grateful for that. Usually she could see the picture right away of what she heard. ..But her brain was not interested in the future. Loaded with the past and hungry for more, it left her no room to imagine, let alone plan for, the next day.'
72- Paul D on Mister and the tobacco tin
73
76 - Denver tells Beloved about her birth  (moves into eye witness narrative)
86 It was time to lay it all down. This chapter – description of Baby Suggs preaching . Story of Denver's birth continues – Stamp Paid. Ella: 'Don't love nothing.'
95 Freeing yourself was one thing; claiming ownership of that freed self was another.
101- Lady Jones. Denver loses her hearing
104
105 turtles
106- Paul D – Alfred, Georgia
113
114- Beloved 'moves' Paul D. Tobacco tin opens
117
125 Is that where the manhood lay? In the naming done by a whiteman who was supposed to know?.
132 Unless carefree, motherlove was a killer.
124 Beloved starts to fall apart
135 The feast. 'The scent of their disapproval lay in the air.' (p137)
139 - Baby Suggs. 'Could she sing? (Was it nice to hear when she did?) Was she pretty? ..' 'These hands belong to me. 'These my hands. 'Next she felt a knocking in her chest and discovered something else new: her own heartbeat.' (141)
147 The infanticide
153
149 Inside, two boys bled in the sawdust and dirt at the feet of a nigger woman holding a blood-soaked child to her chest with one hand and an infant by the heels in the other.

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But now she'd gone wild, due to the mishandling of the nephew who'd overbeat her and made her cut and run.

154- Stamp tells Paul D.  147 – Stamp's perspective of infanticide
159- Sethe tells Paul D of infanticide:
165 I was big, Paul D, and deep and wide and when I stretched out my arms all my children could get in between….maybe I couldn't love 'em proper in Kentucky because they wasn't mine to love. (162)
So you protected yourself and loved small.
Suddenly (Paul D) saw what Stamp Paid wanted him to see: more important than what Sethe had done was what she claimed.  It scared him.  ‘Your love is too thick.’ (164)
“You got two feet, Sethe, not four.’ (165)
169- Stamp Paid tries to visit.  Memories of Baby Suggs funeral.
173
174- Ice-skating.  ‘Nobody saw them falling.’(174).  Sethe realises who Beloved is (175)
5
176- Stamp Paid visits again.  Memories of Baby. (180 – finds the ribbon)
181
183- Sethe explains to Beloved.
184-5 – Stamp Paid's name
190 Definitions belonged to the definers – not the defined
200- 3 acts of reconciliation:
200- Sethe claims Beloved
205- Denver claims Beloved
210 – Beloved claims Sethe
218 Paul D – tobacco tin
220 – Without his (Mr G) life each of theirs fell to pieces. ... For years Paul D believed schoolteacher broke into children what Mr G made into men. ... Was he naming what he saw or creating what he did not?
Paul D remembers Sweet Home escape (222-229)
239 Sethe and Beloved mutually destructive – ‘124 was quiet’
241 – and the more she took, the more Sethe began to talk, explain, describe how much she had suffered, been through, for her children.’
243- Denver decides to seek help.
248 – the community help
250 'the bigger Beloved got, the smaller Sethe became.'
251- Sethe, ‘trying to persuade Beloved ... that what she had done was right because it came from true love.’
256- Ella didn’t like the ideas of past errors taking possession of the present.’...the future was sunset; the past something to leave behind.  And if it didn’t stay behind, well, you might have to stomp it out.’
258 – women arrive at 124
268 Paul D’s travels:
And in all those escapes (Paul D) could not help being astonished by the beauty of this land that was not his….Anything could stir him and he tried hard not to love it.

272 Paul D and Sethe reconcile:
She is a friend of my mind.  She gather me, man.  The pieces I am, she gather them and give them back to me in all the right order.
He wants to put his story next to hers.
Seth, me and you, we got more yesterday than anybody.  We need some kind of tomorrow.
You your best thing, Sethe.
27 It was not a story to pass on.