

Wake

She comes in
at the back entrance
and she is thinner.

Her boys Xolisa (Peace)
and Thando (Beloved)
are dead.

As so many are
the unwitting victims

unwitting of their victims
as so many are.

A wind-bent reed
bowed over their graves.
She was that thin.

In the smoke of the fires
that cooked the funeral meat
her fragile form faltered.