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Child's First Encounter with Language as Power

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Bird in my hand, flushed
with new blood and fragile.

Unfold the paper and read what I have
written: *Hate my Mother, Hate my Father,*

too. I suck this meat until it is bone
in my throat. Fat comfort: that I could open

my hand—let go Clench my fingers,
a fistful of feathers shut inside my drawer.