‘You murdered people. You imprisoned people. You robbed people.’
‘none of it was ever yours; it was never, ever yours’
‘you might feel that you had understood the meaning of the Age of Enlightenment’
‘you distorted or erased my history and glorified your own identity
‘people like me’ repeated/othering –
‘all the laws that you know mysteriously favour you’
‘Do you know why people like me are shy about being capitalists? Well, it’s because we, for as long as we have known you, were capital, like bales of cotton and sacks of sugar’ identity/blacks treated like currency – objectified/dehumanised
‘what I became after I met you’

Part 3

The third section, the longest, deals with Antigua’s present and begins with Kincaid asking herself the disturbing question of whether, considering the state of the island today, things weren’t, in fact, better in the old days. As an example, she takes the state of the library, awaiting repairs after all these years and forced to reside in “temporary” quarters above a dry goods store. Kincaid has fond, if ambivalent, feelings toward the old library, which was a haven of beauty and an escape into reading for her as a child. She recalls the imperious ways of the head librarian (who suspected Kincaid, rightly, of stealing books), who is now sadly reduced to campaigning, mostly unsuccessfully, for funds to build a new library, while the collection decomposes in cardboard boxes. The rich members of the Mill Reef Club have the funds to help, but will do so only if the old library is rebuilt—a demand that Kincaid sees as having more to do with nostalgia for the colonial regime than with a true desire to help. Kincaid mentions the ironies involved in Antigua having a Minister of Culture without having a culture to administer. She also mentions her politically active mother’s run-in with the current Minister of Culture, who has allowed the library to languish. Education has clearly suffered on Antigua in the years since independence, and Kincaid ruefully notes the poor speech habits of the younger Antiguans

‘Is the Antigua I see before me, self-rulled, a worse place than what it was when it was dominated by the bad-minded English and all the bad-minded things they brought with them?’

“The government is corrupt. Them are thief, them are big thief.” Corruption/human cruelty