

# Spilled Milk

## Body Autonomy

Enslaved women were often raped by the plantation owner or breed as a form of chattel slavery. Done to maintain a steady stream of "inventory" as a result, some women would eventually maintain roles exclusively as "wet nurses". Consent was stripped from enslaved women at the most visceral and biological levels, it in itself is a violent attack on the personhood and culture of femininity

## White Women

Acquiring milk produced by enslaved women was seen as an investment for the woman of the household. By having someone else engage in lactation it was believed to reduce her risks of developing saggy breasts, it also reduced her risks of contracting common infections like mastitis which would have been fatal. Lactation became an avenue for white women to gain status and exercise power that had been stripped by their male counterparts, unfortunately, it created a disdain for femininity and resentment towards motherhood.

## Separation

Separation occurred at different stages when an enslaved woman was designated a wet nurse. She may be separated from her life partner or children so she could "properly focus" on the plantation owner's child. She'd also experience isolation because she'd most likely be in the house for accessibility to the baby. Living in the main quarters, she'd be more susceptible to further sexual and physical abuse and emotional trauma.

## Fultz Quads

The Fultz quadruplets were adopted as toddlers by their physician who was sponsored by the PET formula company for their care. Commonly known as the "Fultz Quads", they were used as propaganda to promote the concept of fertility and healthy children be associated with formula. They were subjected to tests and given various concoctions from their physician guardian as unknowing participants in his studies. All four the women never received compensation and died of cancer, their livelihood became tools for misinformation.

