

*Joanne C. Hillhouse*

## DA'S CALYPSO



De Calypsonian  
ha wan special gift.  
He lif' de horrors  
from de life  
o' de people  
an' mek dem  
dance to it.  
Not quite de same  
as making dem  
forget.  
Rather,  
Encouragin' dem  
fu revel inna um;  
feel dem  
pain,  
sing um loud,  
sing um again.

De calypsonian  
stand up pon wan  
street corner  
and bellow loud  
de criticism o' de masses.  
He expose de  
lies of de fat cats;  
flush out  
de politicians,  
mercenaries,  
and other rats;  
lift de veil off

de illusion,  
music and pain  
married –  
in fusion.

De calypsonian  
ah wan common man.  
He na min school pon  
Shakespeare,  
but he understan' well  
de ingenuity o'

wan pun,  
weave imagery o'  
everyday life  
inna song –  
like Obsti did when he  
sing *Wet You Han'*  
an' Sparrow  
in *Ten to One*  
and *Dan is the Man...*

De calypsonian  
ah politician,  
musician,  
commentarian.  
De calypsonian  
take tragedy an'  
mek song;  
tek love,  
sex,  
an' passion,  
add wan hook  
an' twist e inna  
wan road march jam.  
'Member how *Tourist Leggo*  
min hab everybody,  
white and black,  
ah dance fuh so?  
Dat ah de magic  
o' calypso!