

Maureen Roberts

CALALOO:

A REVIEW OF VOICES IN A NEW DAWN



Voices in a New Dawn, an anthology edited by Jean Buffong, Maureen Roberts and Tony La Mothe, grew out of a project carried out by the St. John's Educational Trust, UK. A group of Grenadians living in London were brought together by Mr. Allister Francis MBE, to build a library in the parish of St. John's, Grenada. The library is nearing completion and *Voices in a New Dawn* is a landmark collection which will take pride of place in the library's collection.

The anthology was conceived not only as a show case for Grenadian writers but also as a fundraiser for the library project. It is the first time that such a collection has been attempted. It is by no means comprehensive because although it contains work by writers such as Merle Collins, Jean Buffong, Allister Bain, Ricardo Keens-Douglas, Abdul Malik and Christopher DeRiggs many potential contributors are missing. Jacob Ross is conspicuous by his absence; he contributed a great deal of time and effort in the collection of works and assisted with the creation of the anthology. Joan Anim-Addoo's work is also missing from this first of what we hope will be a series of such books.

The editors wanted to be as inclusive as possible for this first collection and this can make for an uneven quality in the work included. It is a taster of the talent that is available. The collection is organized into four sections and each includes short stories, poems and essays. The themes are Grenadian culture, Relationships, Education, and Migration. Contributions came from Grenadians living in South America, Canada, America, England and Grenada.

There are poignant stories about living in other countries such as Esther O'Neale's Lament on a Winter's Day and Loretta McMilan's When Aunt Coralie Visits. Classic folk tale style stories such as Ricardo Keens-Douglas's *Sebastian* and the *La Diablesse Stories*, which try to unravel the mysteries of the interaction between changing generations such as Merle Collin's *When Time Reach*. Yolande Baker-Lewis novel extract, *Inforapenny*, explores the cruelty that can reside at the core of the intimate relationship between a man and woman.

The essays give the reader a chance to consider how issues such as migration have changed Grenadians living at home and abroad. They engage with issues of education for black boys in England and how the Grenadian family survives in the Diaspora.

Cleopatrice Andrew's short story, *Illicit Soup*, overflows with nostalgia for a time long past.

Voices in a New Dawn is an illicit soup of writing, which lends readers various perspectives of what it is to be Grenadian..