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Anthurium

Keisha-Gaye Anderson



Anderson, Keisha-Gaye. "Anthurium."

Curtsied ladies
shimmy pink hips
to the rat tat tat
of the Singer
and the humming
of the giver
caretaker
of anchor baby siblings
that couldn't go to
foreign
just then
no one is sure when

"Jesus loves the little children..."

Rat tat tat tat
of garments made
then sent
pittance "par avion"
is already spent

Water cut off
at two o'clock
elegant pink ladies
shake their frocks
as she faithfully
pours them
a cool drink
and bathes the first pickney
in backyard sink

Ladies lean back
to the wind's chorus
as it whistles through
iron bars
flips their skirts over head
circles through
the concrete yard

Verandah planted
with memories
of alleys now
devoid of green
aloe, begonia, geranium
dance with
pink anthuriums

Wheelbarrow youth
yells 'callaloo!'
near cinder blocks
that soon tu'n room

While little hands
dig dirt and sand
drop seeds
into the
a dirt floor
to conjure colors
of the mind's eye
before the urban sprawl
became a rambling sore

About the author

Keisha-Gaye Anderson is a Jamaican-born poet, author, screenwriter, and journalist. Her book, *Gathering the Waters* was published by Jamii Publishing, in 2014. In 2013 she was chosen to participate in the Callaloo Writers Workshop, held at Brown University. That same year, her essays were published in two anthologies: *Captured by the City: New Perspectives in Urban Culture Studies* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) and *Bet on Black: African American Women Celebrate Fatherhood* (Kifani Press). In 2010, Keisha was short-listed for the Small Axe Literary competition and also named a fellow by the North Country Institute for Writers of Color. Her poetry has appeared in *Small Axe Salon*, *Renaissance Noire*, *The Killens Review of Arts and Letters*, *Caribbean in Transit Arts Journal*, *The Mon Egg*, and *Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon Blog*. Keisha is currently concluding her M.F.A. in Creative Writing (fiction) at The City College, CUNY. For more about Keisha, please visit <http://www.keishagaye.com>