

# Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 2, Number 2: Summer/Fall 2003

## Information about this work:

---

*Birthday Song*

**By:** KATIA ULYSSE

**Start Page:** 139

**URL:** <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/vol2iss2/0202139.pdf>

---

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters* is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

*Calabash* is published by New York University. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher information may be obtained at: <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html>

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters*

© 2003 New York University

*Katia Ulysse*

## BIRTHDAY SONG

• • •

I thought about Maya as I  
Fastened my crimson corset behind the small, lighted bar  
“I wouldn’t take anything from my journey now,”  
She says. Will I say the same?

I liked being twenty-three so  
I stayed twenty-three  
For seven spiritless years

Joe, from West Virginia, ordered sex on the beach  
Because he guessed I wanted a house with my  
Typewriter overlooking the Caribbean,  
So that the sea air could soothe my senses  
While I wrung masterpieces drop by drop  
From dreams drenched with woo woos,  
Tequila, and tears

Joe said, “I hope your novels can  
Wait ‘til you’ve served screaming orgasms to customers  
Who won’t tip you worth a conch shell.”  
“Wait?” I said,  
“They’re about to sing me the birthday song.”  
I really can’t take another damn birthday song