

*Dana Gilkes*

## KETTLES AND WHISLING HOLES

...

My husband comes home shorter  
in the late afternoon  
from a hard day's work,  
drops his briefcase on a side table  
puts the kettle on to boil  
asks me to listen out  
for the whistle  
and trudges up the stairs  
to change.

Dutifully I start  
to attune my ears.  
But other things get in the way,  
like this feeling  
I sometimes have  
that the whole island  
is set adrift in the ocean  
come evening

and sometimes I get the impression –  
somebody pointed out  
serotonin levels once  
and I should take a pill –  
that we are sinking slow  
and further,  
that we are either late for something vast  
or vastly late for something...

The kettle wails its crescendo on cue.  
The water changes into steam

the steam is visceral  
and dissipates above the stove.  
It seems the whole world  
is in collusion some evenings  
and the kettle has just willed itself  
a clearer listening hole  
where the silence obtrudes...

My husband soon reappears  
and wonders how hard  
could it possibly be  
to grab a-hold of a simple knob  
and turn it  
anti-clockwise.

# Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 3, Number 2 / Fall-Winter 2005

## Information about this work:

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**URL:** <http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/vol3no2/0302042.pdf>

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*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.

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*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters*

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