

# Calabash

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*The Same Conversation with my Grandmother*

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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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*Jacqueline Bishop*

## THE SAME CONVERSATION WITH MY GRANDMOTHER

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No, I did not know my mother's mother,  
the woman who would have been  
my grandmother on my mother's side.  
My mother did not know

Her own mother, last name Scott ---  
died when my mother was nothing more  
than a year and nine months old.  
I heard her talk about this once,

a slow whisper, wondering  
what her mother must have been like,  
What she must have looked like ---  
Photographs were not readily available those days.

My mother's people were from Swift River,  
not far from here, not far from Nonsuch;  
All of us, you, me, your mother ---  
we are Portland women, through and through.

When my mother's father died,  
My mother, then only twelve years old,  
Was sent to live with an older sister in Nonsuch,  
Where she met the white man, your great grandfather,  
And you already know the end to that story.