

Calabash

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Re: John

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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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Peggy Garrison

RE: JOHN

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I'm sitting by my open window
writing in the summer sun;
John is in his dark bedroom
in white-poppied sleep
that lifts him above the pain.

He was such a good patient,
did everything the doctors said
3 chemotherapy trials,
3 chemotherapy failures.
77 pounds melted like clarified butter;
swallowing a tuna sandwich
had become the day's challenge.

Now finally closed that neck-port,
emptied that obedient vein.

We're huddled around the word
hospice, the comfort of
padded slippers
and gray-lady whispers....