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Casting Spells

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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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Nadine Rodgers

CASTING SPELLS

(for Nazirah and Nehessaiu)

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Act I Scene I: At the crossroads in Squaw Valley, California

[Enter the three witches]

*When shall we three meet again,
in thunder lightening or in rain?*

*When the hurly burly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.*

Then the magic will be on.

Where the place?

New York, Rhode Island, or DC,

There to stir up creativity.

Witch 1: I must awaken the people

Witch 2: I'll give them hope

Witch 3: I'll use my sixth finger....

[Exeunt]

Act I Scene III: An airport somewhere on the East Coast of the USA

[Enter the three witches]

Where hast thou been sistah?

Killing swine.

Sistah, where thou?

A brother thought he had a serious rap,

And talked, and talked, and talked: "Silence," quoth I:-

"Later for you, witch!" the trifling negro cries,

He on a business trip is gone, to close a deal.

But on a metaphor I'll thither sail

And with my art I'll make him fail;

I'll do, I'll do, I'll do.

Witch 1: I'll give thee a sharp word
Th'art kind.

Witch 3: I'll lend you my sixth finger
I myself have all the other.

[Voices fade. Dim lights to black]

Act IV Scene I: Gasparee Caves, Trinidad. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.

[Enter the three witches]

Round about the cauldron go;

In the poison'd entrails throw.

Eye of molester, liar's tongue,

Sappho hater, lovers gone;

Thigh and wishbone, neckbone too,

Stir them in there, fix a stew;

Absent father's old gold tooth,

Secretive mother's vow of truth,

Nappy hair strand coiled and strong,

Black girl's genetics hidden long.

Double, double toil and trouble:

Fire burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

Cool it with agouti's blood;

Then the spell is firm and good.