

Joanne C. Hillhouse

DA'S CALYPSO



De Calypsonian
ha wan special gift.
He lif' de horrors
from de life
o' de people
an' mek dem
dance to it.
Not quite de same
as making dem
forget.
Rather,
Encouragin' dem
fu revel inna um;
feel dem
pain,
sing um loud,
sing um again.

De calypsonian
stand up pon wan
street corner
and bellow loud
de criticism o' de masses.
He expose de
lies of de fat cats;
flush out
de politicians,
mercenaries,
and other rats;
lift de veil off

de illusion,
music and pain
married –
in fusion.

De calypsonian
ah wan common man.
He na min school pon
Shakespeare,
but he understan' well
de ingenuity o'

wan pun,
weave imagery o'
everyday life
inna song –
like Obsti did when he
sing *Wet You Han'*
an' Sparrow
in *Ten to One*
and *Dan is the Man...*

De calypsonian
ah politician,
musician,
commentarian.
De calypsonian
take tragedy an'
mek song;
tek love,
sex,
an' passion,
add wan hook
an' twist e inna
wan road march jam.
'Member how *Tourist Leggo*
min hab everybody,
white and black,
ah dance fuh so?
Dat ah de magic
o' calypso!

Calabash

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