

Goat Bite

For Louise and Cecelia

Yuh little beast,
Playing yuh can't give meh peace.
Boy ah tired wid yuh,
Come here,
Yuh little good fer nothing
Just like yuh father
Just like yuh runaway father
That dirty so and so, scamp.
Look, I can't take it no more nuh
He give me yuh, and gorn.
Now like you come to finish the job
Yuh want to kill meh before meh time
And send meh to meh grave.
Well yuh lie,
I go kill you first, wid blows
Yuh doh want to do nothing in the place
Just eat sleep and shit.
Come here yuh lil' vagabond
Come here ah tell yuh
Work night and day to mind you
And bring you up
Now what ah get,
Eh, what ah get?

For all the hard times ah had to endure
Sun and rain, breaking dew, cold, hot.
Night come, day go
Some days ah have nothing to eat
Some nights ah have less
What more ah could do for you?
Ah going almost naked to put shoe on yuh foot.
Yuh dirty father never give meh a cent
I had to pay for everything and rent.
On top it all yuh 'car' give meh peace
Ah send yuh to school to give yuh some education
For yuh to come out something good
Yuh run 'way from school, break biche
Go in the patch to catch dove
Go in the hills for mango
Yuh like yuh want nothing good
Look at yuh cousin John
He pass exhibition, now he going Q.R.C. college.
College yes!
He go come out some doctor, or big time lawyer.
He mother could be proud ah he!
Like goat bite me,
Eh boy, tell meh, goat bite me eh, eh?
Answer meh, goat bite meh?
- Yess...Nno...mammy.

LeRoy Clarke

August 1965 (Tobago)