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no, i'm not jamaican

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no, i'm not jamaican

Author Bio

Zoe is from the beautiful and exotic island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. She enjoys playing volleyball and softball, creative writing, photography, and listening to music in her spare time. Her creative writing began in the early year of 2018, and also began photography in the early year of 2020. From then, she has formed a passion for both art styles.

no i'm not jamaican



ZOE HENRY

hello! i've noticed that you have an accent.
it sounds very familiar.
you're probably from jamaica right?
"wha gwan mon?"
asked with laughter.

no, i'm not jamaican.

i am native to the United States Virgin Islands,
a proud and prideful Crucian.
i'm embodied with the fierceness of a Carib,
who obtains success like Tim Duncan
and with Queen Mary's determination.

no, i'm not jamaican.

i live on an island where the Locals' energy
is absorbed from the sun's rays
executed with smiles, love, humor, and respect.
we are powerful together; we stand as one
even with the devastations from Hugo days.

no, i'm not jamaican.

my accent does not affiliate with jamaica.
i do not say "wha gwan mon, everything ire"
to every person i recognize or approach.
my appearance and the way i strut are not
jamaican's pride; that is not me.

no, i'm not jamaican.

so think again when you're going to ask
me about my nationality.
make sure your next inquiry is, "where are you from?"
do not make the assumption of who i am
because the next time my answer will not be

no, i'm not jamaican.

Author Statement

"I wanted to express the frustration of being a person of Caribbean nationality in a different environment. 'no, i'm not jamaican' shows the misidentification of an islander, specifically from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Generally, most people do assume that a person from the Caribbean is Jamaican. Some tend to even mock the accents and/or ask questions, which comes off being ignorant and offensive. This poem emphasizes the importance of asking someone their nationality, rather than making the presumption of what and who they are. This poem also stemmed from personal experiences and the story of my peers from back home and other islands. With this poem, I want the readers to understand the annoyance of being mistaken. Also, to really observe the pridefulness that Crucians or any Caribbean islander has. Moreover, this poem is written on behalf of a Crucian, Virgin Islander, and other Caribbean nationalities."

