

*Adziko Simba*

## THE BLACKS AND THE BLUES



Bottom Story (reggae bass line)

It goes like this.  
There is the bass, the base, the bass.  
There is the basement.

There is a woman  
prone  
stripped to the bone.  
Her fist ball hands  
Flay the concrete floor in tune  
with her feet.

She is locked inside  
her self.  
Drowning in give up words  
she feels compelled to say  
but does not want to hear.

They ricochet,  
these dum-dum bullet words,  
shattering the one nerve  
so tightly strung  
inside her  
reverberating  
harmonic chords  
all around  
other bodies  
so black  
they blue

so tuned  
they quiver  
in sympathetic syncopated time.

Yeah,  
Black sure can dance.

### Middle Story (blues)

In the stairwell  
blackantbodies  
run spirals  
round white busybodies  
with microscopic eyes  
neither making head nor tail of  
souls sprinting  
under science  
like we don't know what we doing  
like we don't know where we going,  
like we don't do nothing but round and round and raound and

Yeah,  
Black sure can fly.

### Top Story (jazz)

So it goes like this

Her basement blues souls up stairs  
Kundalini snaking up the twisting heartache to ejaculate  
seeds  
exploding from the blackbackbeat of bottombasementbodies  
bursting up  
and out through one black man on a hot zinc roof  
blowing redblackgreen out his  
metal mouth  
spraying spit libations  
to the sky.

don't think rain.  
don't carry no umbrella...

Yeah  
Blacks sure can Blue.

# Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 4, Number 2 / Spring-Summer 2007

## Information about this work:

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*THE BLACKS AND THE BLUES*

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**Start Page:** 59

**URL:** <http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/vol4no2/0402059.pdf>

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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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*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters*  
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