

Maggie Harris

SELECTED POEMS

1999-2010

WINNER OF THE GUYANA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE, 2000.

The writer, performer and tutor Maggie Harris was born in New Amsterdam, Guyana in 1954 and attended Berbice High School. In 1971 she moved to the UK and, as a mature student, studied at Kent University where she achieved both a BA Honours in African/Caribbean Studies and a Masters Degree in Post-Colonial Studies. She has published five collections of poetry to date – *Foreday Morning* (1999), *Limbolands* (2000), *Dancing with Words* (2001), *From Berbice to Broadstairs* (2006) and *After a Visit to a Botanical Garden* (2010), and also written a memoir entitled *Kiskadee Girl* (2011).

Much of Harris’s work is concerned with what a reviewer of *Limbolands* aptly described as ‘a collision of cultures’, and this desire to explore and articulate cultural and racial hybridity is evident throughout the poems which form this new volume. Representing a cross-section of her writing from the past eleven years, these poems illustrate the myriad ways in which her skilful use of language – both Creole and Standard English – is employed to explore a range of issues such as motherhood/motherland; identity; exile and alienation; and to (re)imagine events from the Caribbean’s turbulent past. Harris clearly draws upon the diversity of her Guyanese background as a major source of nourishment for both her creative imagination and the hybrid, trans-cultural sense of self that informs her poetry.

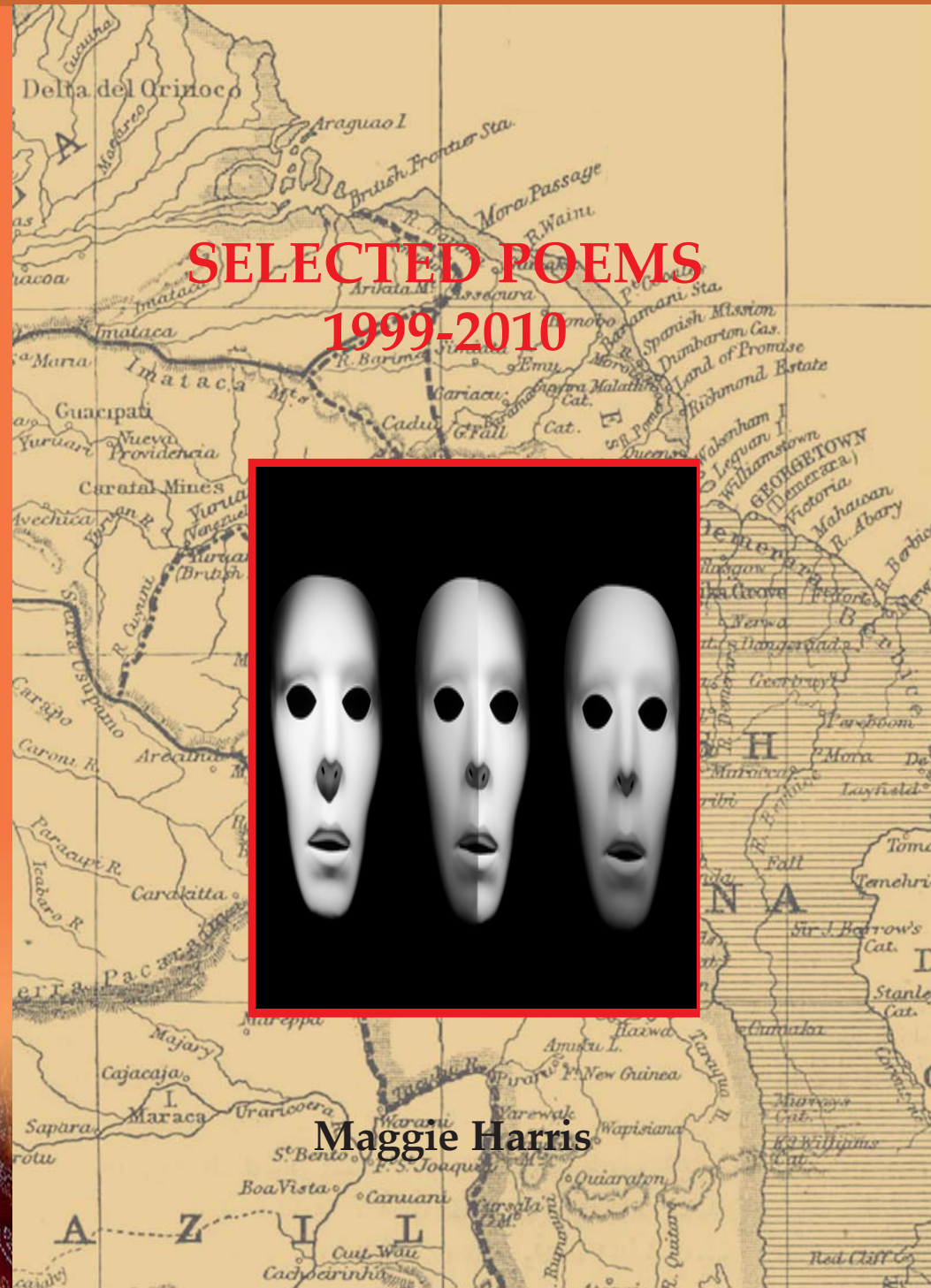
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