

My Island
The Land of Sunshine

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To the following people with many thanks for your help and inspirations:

- ❖ Margo La Gattuta – Editor
- ❖ Shanna M. Groves – My daughter
- ❖ Sharae M. Groves – My daughter
- ❖ Yanique S. Lee – My niece

FOREWORD

As an elementary student, I was deeply inspired by my late principal, Edna L. Morris of Mocho Primary School, Clarendon, Jamaica West Indies. She taught the general subject areas at that time in the upper grades. She was an excellent teacher in singing folk music, playing the piano and writing poetry. She was also a great pianist for the school as well as for the church. I remember her clearly as if it were yesterday.

The class performances over the years allowed us to enter the annual competition which took place in the capital, Kingston. At the end of each performance, the class won many gold, silver and bronze medals. The school was highly recognized throughout the island.

My interest in poetry was renewed four years ago in a creative writing class at Baker College, Auburn Hills. In July, 2007, I entered a contest with one of my poems to The International Library of Poetry, and I was awarded the prestigious Editor's Choice Award for the poem, "Cherries." The award further motivated me to write my own book of poems. In the past, I wrote for the opinion section of the local newspaper, *The Oakland Press*, where I was published a few times.

I like to write for fun and to share my experiences and knowledge with anyone who may have an interest in reading. My goal and love of writing continues.

Beverly E. Dyer-Groves

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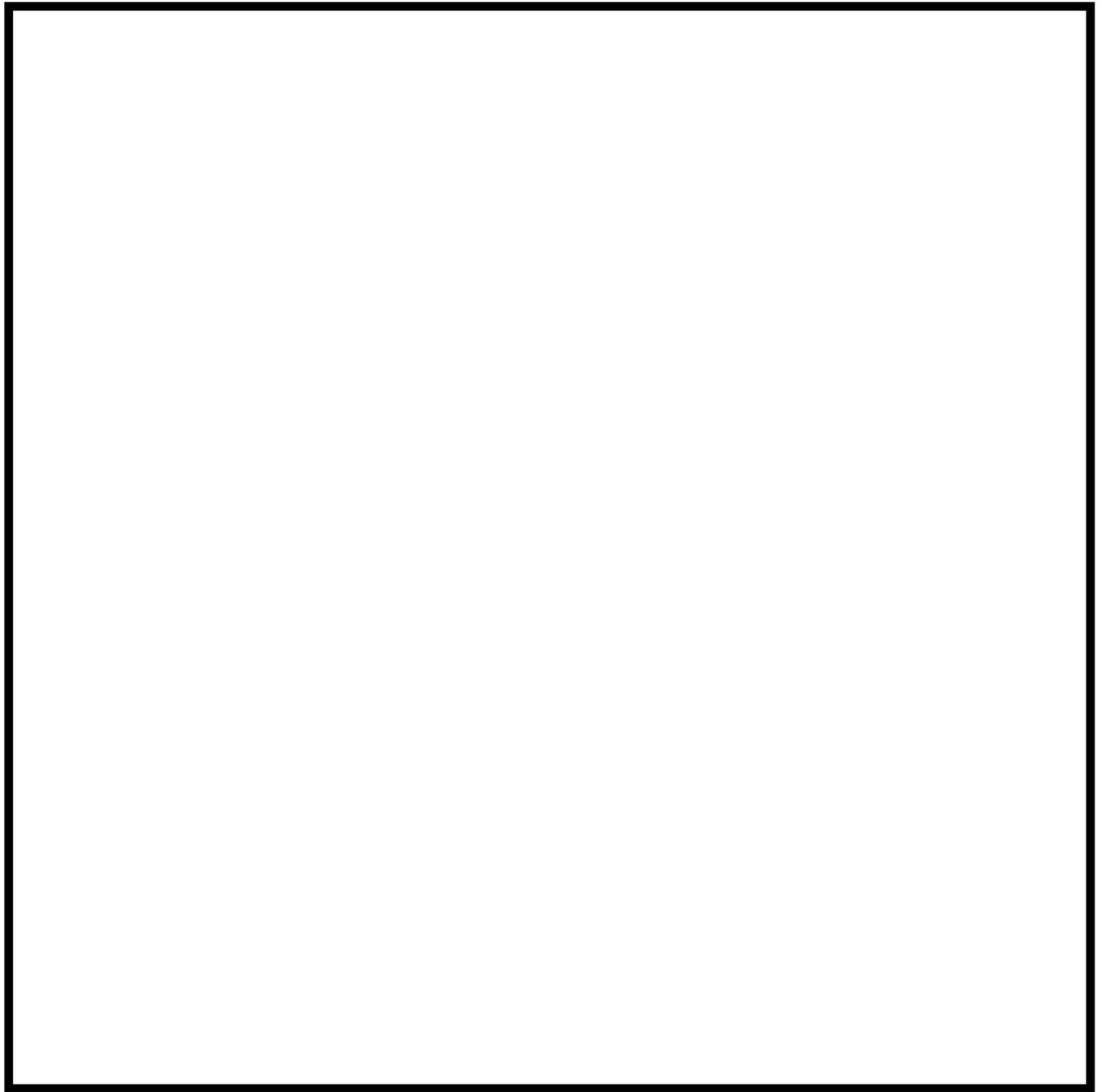
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The following poems of the year have been published in
recent anthologies:

The International Library of Poetry

(Owings Mills, Maryland)

2007 “*Cherries*”

Noble House

(International—New York City, New York)

2009 “*Nature*”

Special thanks to my instructor Karen Arndt and my classmates

of the 2005 fall Creative

Writing class at Baker College,

Auburn Hills, Michigan

CHAPTER ONE

Memory

“What we remember from childhood we remember forever—
permanent ghosts, stamped, inked, imprinted, eternally seen.”

~Cynthia Ozick

JAMAICA, THE LAND I LOVE

I remember things like the gorgeous mountains,
The green valleys that spread out like
Colorful velvet sheets, the land formations
And the various palm trees and other trees
Of beauty that await my arrival any time of the year.
Other moments awaiting me are the white
Sandy beaches along the north coast of the island.
This beauty awaits me calmly and patiently
Especially between September and June

The hills, plateau, and valleys produce
Some of the best coffee, sweetest fruits
And food crops I can ever imagine. These
Products are accompanied by the most
Wonderful sunshine and sunset I will enjoy.
It is beautiful and stunning. It captivates
Every bit of your moments, and when you
Get there and return home, you will say,
“Oh my goodness, I cannot wait to get back!”