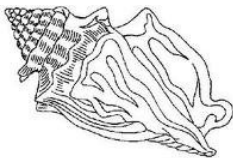
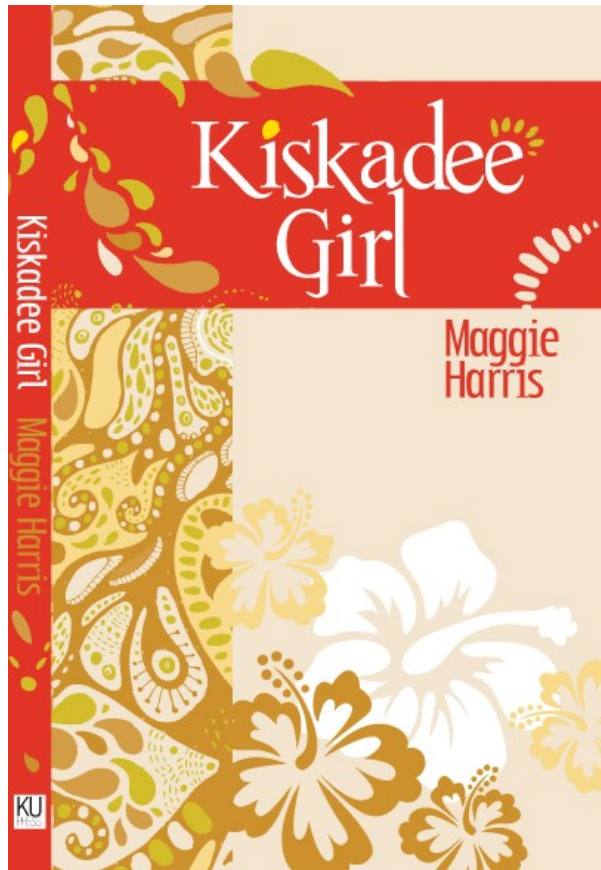


Kiskadee Girl

Maggie Harris

'A memoir that reads like a novel'

"We throw it down the backsteps and watch it bounce, clatter and splinter, heading for the yard. Daddy's spirit was *in the shell*, they said, he didn't know yet he was dead."



In the small Caribbean town of Guyana on the South American coast, a fifteen year old schoolgirl is forced to face her father's sudden death, pre-empted by a strange foreboding.

This memoir of growing up in the 50s and 60s reflects a society that was trying to find its path after centuries of slavery and colonialism. Life for teenagers was at a crossroads between tradition and discipline, political awareness and a new-found voice influenced by literature, the music of Donovan and the new reggae sound, and the movies of Britain and America. In a world within worlds, love and dreams exist side by side as a young girl on the cusp of maturity discovers her sensuality in the midst of her country's own movement towards independence.

Kiskadee Girl vividly re-imagines Guyana, named from the Amerindian *Land of Many Waters*. The Berbice River runs like an artery through the book's emotional and geographical landscape, carrying tug-boats and ghosts, bauxite, bones, and long-forgotten stories.

- Chronicles different ancestral strands from Portugal, Scotland, Africa and the Caribbean and reflects themes of emerging independence and migration
- Explores Caribbean culture, European and American influences through family history and a teenager's journey through love, loss and a love for literature

Publication: 1st August 2011

Paperback, 224pp

Price: £12.99

ISBN: 978-1-899999-50-7

Categories: Life-writing

Memoir/Caribbean Studies

About the Author

Maggie Harris lectures on international writing in schools and at Southampton University. In 2008 she was a winner in the prestigious KUP life-writing prize and her previous publications include *Limbolds* (Mango Publishing), which won the Guyana Prize for Literature 2000. She edited *Sixty Poems for Haiti* (Cane Arrow Press) and her poems and short stories have appeared in journals such as *Poetry Wales*, *Wasafiri* and *Agenda*, and in anthologies published by Virago and LittleBrown.