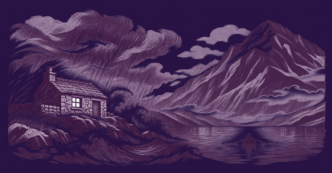
LIKE AN HEIRESS

Grace Nichols



WHAT HAPPENS? A return to a beloved coast reveals pollution and leads to uneasy retreat and reflection.

BIG IDEA **An inherited love of place becomes morally uncomfortable when the speaker confronts environmental damage and her own ability to retreat.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“jewels”

Wealth metaphor

The sea’s beauty initially appears as an inherited treasure.

“rubbish”

Tonal disruption

Waste interrupts the attraction of the remembered coast.

“tourist”

Self-comparison

The speaker acknowledges her own position as a temporary visitor able to leave.

“sanctuary”

Religious diction

The hotel offers shelter, but its comfort complicates the environmental reflection.

FORM

A 14-line, sonnet-like poem in free verse; the turn from coastal beauty to rubbish unsettles its initial abundance.

CONTEXT

A return to the Atlantic coast reveals consumption’s environmental cost and the privileges of tourism.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Lines Written in Early Spring: nature and human harm. With Birds You’re Never Lonely: connection to threatened environments.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Return to Atlantic

DRAWN AND NOSTALGIC

The sea seems to offer the treasure of childhood memory.

Rubbish at seawall

DISAPPOINTED AND ACCUSATORY

Human waste displaces the expected abundance of natural beauty.

Hotel retreat

UNEASY AND REFLECTIVE

Concern for the planet coexists with access to comfort away from the damaged shore.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.