

## **Noise! Noise! Noise!**

By Judy Hanel (St Kitts and Nevis)

Latisha poured over her biology textbook. Tomorrow was the final exam and she still had a lot of revision to do.

“Ah need a couple o’ hours,” Latisha said out loud. The house was quiet as everyone else was already in bed. It was impossible to do any work when her ten-year-old twin brothers were awake.

Good. Now Latisha was going to get some work done. One paragraph into her reading came a long loud VROOOOOOM, then a SCREEEECH, followed by a sharp TOOT TOOT! Another bus racing its way to the countryside doing double the speed limit. Well, that wasn’t so bad. Latisha was starting to daydream a little so it helped get her back on track. Before she could get much further, however, she could hear a loud persistent TOOOOOOT, TOOOOOOT outside the house. Then there was shouting.

“JEDBO. JEDBO. JEDBO! The neighbour had a visitor and Jedbo took what seemed like an eternity to attend to him.

“Good. Peace and quiet again, ” thought Latisha as she relished the silence once more.

It was not long before Latisha could make out the faint sound of music. The steady da-dum of a calypso beat got Latisha tapping her feet and trying to think of what song was playing. As it grew closer she began to recognize the tune. Someone was walking down the street she lived on playing his portable stereo. Now she was swaying her body to the rhythmic music and singing the words. As the music slowly drifted away again, Latisha scolded herself for getting distracted.

“Turty minutes gone just like dat”, she thought anxiously as she settled down to study again.

Shortly, she was interrupted again. This time she thought she could hear the scratching sound of a microphone. Sure enough someone was saying. “TESTING. TESTING.”

“ah can’ be hearin’ right”, thought Latisha. “Not a public meeting. Not tonight.”

It was not just a public meeting. It was accompanied by music. Loud music. Latisha could hear the sounds of her favourite songs from The Sugar City Stalkers and Melee Murderers bands. The music continued until someone started to speak.

“At least de music stop, “she thought gratefully but the speaker was not much better. His voice rose and fell in waves as he rallied a crowd of supporters. It was really hard not to listen.

A determined Latisha fought hard to get through her revision despite the continuous noisy interruptions. Finally at 11:00pm just as she was wrapping up her study there was complete peace and quiet.

“Well, at least ah can sleep tonight,” she smiled wearily. As she packed away her books and set her alarm clock she hoped she would not sleep through it.

Several hours later, Latisha was jolted wide awake by a really loud sound.

“What de hell!”, she mumbled, rubbing her eyes. She listened again.

“Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo!”. The neighborhood rooster was wide-awake crowing like he had just witnessed the arrival of his baby chicks.

Latisha spun round wildly as she realized this was the day of her exam and worriedly checked the time on the clock. 6:00am exactly. She had missed her alarm. If it had not been for that noisy old rooster she would still be asleep.

Latisha stuck her head out of the window. “TAAAAAANK YOOUUU!” she screamed. The poor rooster got such a fright he fell off his perch.

“Now all ah have to do is pass dis exam, “ she grinned as she headed off to get ready.