

## HALF-CASTE

By John Agard

Excuse me  
standing on one leg  
I'm half-caste

Explain yusef  
wha yu mean  
when yu say half-caste  
yu mean when Picasso  
mix red an green  
is a half-caste canvas/  
explain yusef  
wha yu mean  
when yu say half-caste  
yu mean when light an shadow  
mix in de sky  
is a half-caste weather

well in dat case  
england weather  
nearly always half-caste  
in fact some o dem cloud  
half-caste till dem overcast  
so spiteful dem don't want de sun pass  
ah rass/  
explain yusef  
wha yu mean  
when yu say half-caste  
yu mean tchaikovsky  
sit down at dah piano  
an mix a black key  
wid a white key  
is a half-caste symphony

Explain yusef  
wha yu mean  
Ah listening to yu wid de keen  
half of mih ear  
Ah looking at yu wid de keen  
half of mih eye  
an when I'm introduced to yu  
I'm sure you'll understand  
why I offer yu half-a-hand



POEMS

an when I sleep at night  
I close half-a-eye  
consequently when I dream  
I dream half-a-dream  
an when moon begin to glow  
I half-caste human being  
cast half-a-shadow  
but yu must come back tomorrow

wid de whole of yu eye  
an de whole of yu ear  
an de whole of yu mind

an I will tell yu  
de other half  
of my story



POEMS