

“Tropic Holiday”

Introductory Note

This text was given to me in about 1985 by a Trinidadian man who had received it passed from friend to friend when he was a boy during the 1950s. He was interested in knowing whether it had been written by a Trinidadian, or by a foreigner just using the setting.

As erotica, or pornography, this text is consistent with many others, particularly in the despicable idea that the best way to seduce young women is to rape them until they learn to “enjoy” it. The indefatigable male organ, the succulent and willing females, the exotic Spanish beauties, the lesbian themes, the aggressive seductiveness of the women towards the man – these are all customary tropes of the genre, both then and now.

In forensic linguistic terms, I think it was indeed written by a Trinidadian with experience in reading English pornography. This is not based on the setting, nor the Venezuelan backstory, although this content is fairly detailed and plausible. The evidence I used was linguistic, though not the use of high-profile specific local Creole words such as *bacchanal*. I felt the evidence was more in grammatical areas, and the use of unwitting transfer of Creole English forms into the standard English text. Examples are given here, with the standard English version given after the original one.

Chapter 1

“I can carry you to a cool spot” (‘take’)

as I were out for some sight-seeing (‘was’)

Chapter 2

Neither Agnez nor Virginia could have spoken English as fluently as Maria (‘could speak’)

Chapter 3

shedding my gears (‘gear’)

All I did, I couldn’t make my coque go down. (‘No matter what I did’)

Chapter 4

We decided to let her take most of the money... and we will just travel with enough (‘would’)

insultive (‘insulting’)

Chapter 6

give me now (‘give it to’)

Chapter 8

she will be in the position to average for herself how much she can bear (‘estimate’)

told her I will always remember her (‘would’)