

Bleach it lickle more

Bleach is seen as a cure for some Jamaican helpers

Singer a one smaddy dat sing song Teacher a one smaddy dat teach Doctor a one smaddy dat look after sick An helper a one smaddy dat bleach An wen mi say bleach, mi nuh talkin bout Fi stay up through di night Mi mean di extra special talent fi meck Every colour fayva white Fi mi Mavis bleach red towel and black tee shirt All de green carpet pan di floor It come een like she have one sickness name Bleach it lickle more Mi tink she a whitewash her way to di pearly gates Or she waan fi meck wi know “Doah you sins be as scarlet, Mavis will wash An meck dem white as snow Imagine, wah day mi buy one orange bathsuit Dah plan fi go a beach Well yuh waan fi see how it fayva leopard skin Sake a Mavis and di bleach Mi always hear dem talk how post colonial peoples Still like fi strive fi white Well Mavis have colonial retention wid me clothes

Nuh dark colours, ongle white Yessiday me hide di bleach fi save me clothes An save myself from shock Mi call from work mi lickle bway tell me say Mavis gawn a shop “She say yuh figet fi leave out di bleach, Mama” Mi heart stop fi a while Den mi fling dung ebry ting and fly go home An a Mavis dat a smile Hear her “Mi teck mi own money go buy de bleach, mam” Mi polka dot blouse inna her han “Di blouse wen too tan bad an full a spotty spotty So mi bleach out every one” “An mi know yuh stop wear dah purple frack yah Sake a di big ol stain” Mavis bleach out di design pan dif rack front an say “Mam, now yuh kyan wear it again” A bex till mi head feel like it wen a go lif off Till mi couldn even talk Mi had was to run way quick time lef di house Go teck a long long walk So mi pay off Mavis fi di res a di year An tell her say she free Fi go look a nex work and which part else An nuh tan in yah mad mi For bad bway dah galang wid badness a street Nuh kya how parson dah preach But bad as dem be dem kyaan cause damage Like a helper wid a bleach So singer oonoo continue fi sing oonoo song Teacher galang an teach Doctor oonoo galang an look after sick But helpers, lef di bleach

Article taken from Joan Andrea Hutchinson’s book Meck Mi Tell Yuh. For bookings and to order books and CDs email: Joan Andrea Hutchinson bumpyhead@cwjamaica.com This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it or hutche@cwjamaica.com