

The Best of Both Worlds

By: Crystal

Grenada has affected me in so many ways that I have lost count. Many people call it the “Spice Islands”, but I call it my home. Even though I’m both Trinidadian and Grenadian, I consider myself to be from Grenada because of its wonderful culture and the impact that my Grenadian aunt’s powerful words have had on me. Grenada is more than a home to me; it’s my family, my culture, and my identity.

Grenada has a place in my heart for several reasons. In Grenada, there’s a fruit called nutmeg, which has now become one of my favorite fruits. Whenever I smell or taste the nutmeg I am immediately overwhelmed with memories of my lovely Grenada. The Grenadian people are so amazing in strength and spirit as well. The beautiful

6+beaches, palm trees, resorts, and wildlife fascinate me.

The languages spoken there are English and French Patios, which are so beautiful when spoken. The culture is rich in music, fashion, and tradition. I have been greatly touched



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and inspired by the fact that the people of Grenada have remained so strong despite the devastation and poverty affecting their land. My aunt once said to me when I was just a small girl only seven years old, “Grenada is your home, so stick to it forever.” In my heart and in my mind I have remained stuck to the most beautiful island a girl can call home. These are the main reasons I love Grenada so much.

Even though Grenada is a spectacular place, my father decided to immigrate to America in 1978. When he did arrive to this country being only Grenadian would have to change as he Americanized himself in order to adapt to the American way of living. Just as my father had to adapt, I also have tried to assimilate into both of my backgrounds as a Grenadian-American girl. However I

often ask myself “Who am I?” When I go to Grenada, I feel that I’m not Grenadian enough because I don’t speak the language but when I go back to New York, I feel that I’m not American enough. I feel as though I am stuck somewhere in the middle. Not fully belonging to either country or culture.



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Yearning to cling and connect with my Grenadian roots I learned the Grenadian language from my aunt and have continued speaking to her about maintaining my roots. I’m now very sure and proud of my Grenadian heritage.

Balancing both of my homes is hard for me because I’m not sure whom I fully belong to. I do things that I like to do in America like playing a sport called dynamite, doing rock climbing and going to church. One of the preachers in my church talks a lot about heritage, which automatically reminds me of the things I like to do in Grenada. In Grenada I play a sport called cricket and my uncle loves that sport and plays it with me. Balancing is not easy but I try everyday to be the best American and the best Grenadian I can be.

Grenada and America are both my home. So as a proud Grenadian-American I embrace both of my cultures with arms wide open. It’s simply as my aunt once said to me, “Never be ashamed of where you come from, because home is where the heart is.” I feel that I can’t bind the two but I’ll try my best to live up to be the only person I can be. Me. Crystal James a girl who has the best of both worlds.



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