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## **Come Back to Me Blue Mountains and Harvey River: Identity in the Poetry of Lorna Goodison**

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### **Abstract**

“I am definitely a poet of place. Even when I am not writing about Jamaica, it is always on my heart,” says the Jamaican poet Lorna Goodison. Her poetry shares with the English romantic poets many features such as romantic sensibility, the use of the sublime, and the landscape as a source of inspiration. Therefore, the paper compares and contrasts the treatment of landscape and the use of established poetic forms by the British romantics and by Lorna Goodison. Furthermore, the paper explores how the formal aspects of Goodison’s poetry support the poetic effect of her verse. In order to evaluate the mediation of the uniqueness of the Jamaican landscape, the use of Standard English as opposed to creole is dealt with. Goodison treats the Jamaican landscape as a matrix against which the history of slavery and colonialism is judged. In her best poems, Goodison transforms the Caribbean history of social injustice into the personal histories of women attached to particular Jamaican landscapes, such as the Harvey River or the Blue Mountains. The Jamaican landscape thus serves as a focal point for the exploration of the feminine self and identity of the Caribbean diaspora. Therefore, the paper ultimately focuses on the way Goodison transforms the Jamaican landscape and history into a quest for individual and national identity that has been shaped and reshaped by slavery, colonial, and, especially, postcolonial and postmodern social development.

**Keywords:** *Lorna Goodison, postcolonial literature, anglophone poetry, landscape poetry*