



Blessing Your Children

a bottle bless them in the only tongue you know
a bottle of water bless them in the only tongue
green bottle of water bless them only
a green glass bottle of water bless them in
a green glass bottle of seawater bless them
a green glass bottle of Mayaro seawater bless them in
with a green glass bottle of Mayaro seawater bless them in the
children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro seawater bless them in the water
your children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro seawater bless them in the water you
wash your children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro seawater bless them in the water you know
wash your children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro New Moon seawater you already know the
wash your weary children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro New Moon seawater already know
mama, wash your weary children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro New Moon seawater know
magic mama, wash your weary children with a green glass bottle of Mayaro New Moon seawater
bless them you already wash your children
bless them in you already know in the moon
bless them in the you already know the words moon water
bless them in only the words you already know moon
tongue
bless them in the only tongue the sea you already know
children
bless them in the only tongue you know the blessed sea you already
know
you know yourself already
you know the words for blessing
children
you already know the words bless them in the
water



Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné is a poet and visual artist from Trinidad and Tobago. Her work has been featured in numerous journals such as *Poetry London*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Rialto*, *The Asian American Literary Review*, *Small Axe* and others. Danielle was the 2015 winner of the Hollick-Arvon Caribbean Writers' Poetry Prize, the 2016 winner of the Wasafiri New Writing Prize, and was shortlisted for the Montreal Poetry Prize in 2013, 2017 and 2020. Her first collection of poems, *Doe Songs*, (2018, Peepal Tree Press), was awarded the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature in the poetry category

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