

# They Call Me Look At: Nicknames on the Caribbean Island of Grenada

On the lush Caribbean island of Grenada, where the air is perfumed with the scent of nutmeg and cocoa, there is a tradition that is as old as the island itself: the use of nicknames. Nicknames, or "look ats" as they are locally known, are an integral part of Grenadian culture. They are used to express affection, respect, and even mockery.

Nicknames are often given to children at birth, and they can be anything from a simple description of the child's appearance to a more elaborate story about their personality. Some of the most common look ats include:

- **Shorty** - for someone who is short
- **Tall Boy** - for someone who is tall
- **Fat Boy** - for someone who is overweight
- **Pretty Girl** - for someone who is attractive
- **Ugly Man** - for someone who is unattractive
- **Crazy Joe** - for someone who is eccentric
- **Lazy Boy** - for someone who is lazy
- **Talkative Girl** - for someone who talks a lot
- **Stingy** - for someone who is stingy
- **Generous** - for someone who is generous

The origins of look ats can be traced back to the days of slavery. When slaves were brought to Grenada from Africa, they were often given new names by their masters. These names were often derogatory and demeaning, and they served to reinforce the slaves' status as property.



## They Call Me ... A look at nicknames on the Caribbean island of Grenada by Shirley Anstis

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.1 out of 5

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In response, slaves began to give themselves their own names, which they called look ats. These names were often chosen to reflect the slaves' own sense of identity and self-worth. They also served as a way to resist the dehumanizing effects of slavery.

After slavery was abolished, the tradition of look ats continued. Nicknames became a way for Grenadians to express their own individuality and to create a sense of community.

There are many different types of look ats, each with its own unique meaning. Some of the most common types include:

- **Descriptive look ats** - these look ats describe the person's physical appearance, personality, or behavior. For example, someone who is short might be called "Shorty," while someone who is lazy might be called "Lazy Boy."
- **Historical look ats** - these look ats refer to a specific event in the person's life. For example, someone who was born during a hurricane might be called "Hurricane."
- **Occupational look ats** - these look ats refer to the person's occupation. For example, a fisherman might be called "Fisherman," while a teacher might be called "Teacher."
- **Complimentary look ats** - these look ats are used to express affection or respect. For example, someone who is kind and generous might be called "Goodheart."
- **Insulting look ats** - these look ats are used to express mockery or contempt. For example, someone who is ugly might be called "Ugly Man."

Look ats are an important part of Grenadian culture. They are used to express affection, respect, and even mockery. They can also be used to create a sense of community and to celebrate the island's unique history.

For Grenadians, look ats are more than just nicknames. They are a reflection of the island's rich culture and history. They are a way of life.

The next time you visit Grenada, don't be surprised if you hear people calling each other by their look ats. It's just a part of the island's vibrant

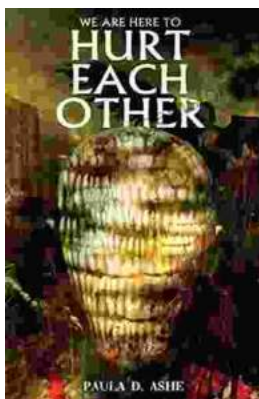
culture. Embrace it, and you'll be sure to have a more authentic Grenadian experience.



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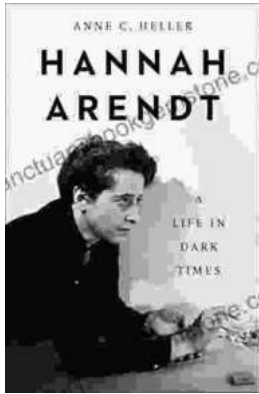
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