

DEATH OF SIR E. ANTROBUS (4th Baronet)
OWNER AND GUARDIAN OF STONEHENGE –
headline from *The Times*, May 15th 1915

And there's my English grandmother,
Barbara Antrobus by the fire,

TV on and her dog, Coco,
huddled on her lap.

*You know, the Antrobuses
owned Stonehenge, she says*

as sure as if her own hand
rested on the stone.

*The Antrobuses refused
millions of pounds*

*to sell it to America.
That's our history,*

*keeping those stones
where they were found.*

Her story made the fire
relight itself.

Flare light
on my grandmother,

a minister's wife,

who prided herself

only as God's servant.
At Christmas she watched

the Queen's speech
hands on her lap

thinking face
quiet as a private fence.

When she died no giant
monuments were passed

our way. But she sat up
in her hospital bed

and said *the children
are by the lake,*

don't let them fall in
and it's astonishing

how clearly I can hear her
and those children now,

how lasting their voices
inside us. How deeply known.

Raymond Antrobus

Raymond Antrobus

Raymond Antrobus MBE FRSL, born in London to an English mother and Jamaican father, is the author of *To Sweeten Bitter* and *The Perseverance*. In 2019 he became the first ever poet to be awarded the Rathbones Folio Prize for best work of literature in any genre. He is the recipient of fellowships from Cave Canem, Complete Works 3, Jerwood Compton and the Royal Society of Literature.

Other accolades include the Ted Hughes award, PBS Winter Choice, the Guardian Poetry Book Of The Year 2018, as well as a shortlist for the Griffin Prize and Forward Prize. Antrobus was the winner of the *Sunday Times / University of Warwick Young Writer of the Year Award*, 2019, and was a judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award in 2019. In 2021 he wrote and presented BBC Radio 4's *Inventions In Sound*, which won Best Documentary: Bronze award at the 2021 Third Coast International Audio Festival.

Antrobus's poem 'Jamaican British' is on the GCSE English Literature syllabus in the UK, and his latest collection, *All The Names Given*, has been shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize and the Costa Award.

A recording of this poem can be found at **writersmosaic.org.uk**

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