

I Remember

I remember

The sounds of people laughing, kids playing, and families singing with joy

Now I hear

Moans of pain, cries for help, and grumbling from shrunken, starving stomachs

I remember

When I wore silky, red dresses, pink bows, and shiny black heels

Now I wear

Faded blue and white striped pajamas with thick, black numbers inked into my pallid skin

I remember

When the birds sang a honey-sweet song to the world

Now

They croak bitter words of sorrow and farewell

I remember

My mother's radiant smile and my little brother's dimpled, plump cheeks

Now

All that is left

Are memories

Painful in their joy

I hold onto them

As my last bit of hope