

When Will the Screaming Stop?

Dominik

The sky is dark; the air is thick

I wake up in my bed, with a cold sweat

I hear screaming, but I'm afraid to leave my
blankets

I feel pounding through every part of me, like
drums

I think this is called fear.

I do not want to leave my bed, but my mind
keeps telling me to check

I fear what is out there

Sometimes I feel like not knowing is safer

Mother comes to my bedroom in the morning
worried

I can see it in her eyes

I can see the fear

“Dominik, we are leaving for the store. Put on
your clothes.”

I wonder why we have to leave

Usually mother goes by herself

Is this because of the screaming?

I walk outside; I am struck with cold, empty air

When Will the Screaming Stop?

No cars on the road

No people on the sidewalks

Nothing

We are alone.

I hear the soldiers yelling

Mother said they are supposed to protect us

They seem only to hurt people

Why doesn't mother stop them?

We are still walking; mother turns sharply,

pushing me into the store

I am scared

I feel the drums pounding again

This time they are worse

I can hear gunshots

It's a sound I have never heard before

Mother starts to cry

I cry too.

When father gets home, I can hear them talking

I think they are talking about what happened

today

When Will the Screaming Stop?

Why won't anyone stop the screaming?

I sit in my room, with the whispers of mother

and father, and the racing beat of the drums

I hear a knock at the front door

Father greets the man

I have never heard this voice before

“You do know the consequences for helping

the Jews, right Mr. Grabowski?”

“Of course, sir.”

Mother and father come to my room in the

evening

“No matter what, Dominik, you must never

talk to the Jews.”

“But why, father?”

“You may not ask questions. Do as I say!”

I lie awake in bed

I feel the drums, dryness in my throat

There is only one thing on my mind

Someone needs to stop the screaming.

I wake up in the morning and get ready for

When Will the Screaming Stop?

school

On the way there, I see a crowd around the

train station

Curiosity takes hold

I ask a little boy what is happening, he says

they are going to work somewhere

Why would so many children work?

I see a woman putting some people into a car

Is she saving them?

Will the screaming finally stop?

I hear a soldier yelling

I run to school

I lay in bed at night, my sight slowly

decreasing

I hear the screaming

It echoes in my body ringing up and down

The drums have played so long, I barely notice

I cannot help but wonder,

When will the screaming stop?

When Will the Screaming Stop?

Patryk

The sky is dark; the air is thick

I wake up in my bed, the house is empty

I hear the door swing open, and mother whisper

“Hurry!”

I hear footsteps

Mother and father do this often

A blood curdling scream comes from outside

What is happening?

I feel pounding through every part of me, like

drums

I have never felt this before

I think this is called fear

I fear what is out there

Sometimes I feel not knowing is safer

Mother comes into my bedroom in the morning

worried.

I can see it in her eyes

I can see the fear.

“Patryk, we are going to the store to get some

food for the innocents, get ready to leave.”

We often go to the store together

We have fun when we go.

When Will the Screaming Stop?

I walk outside; I am struck with cold, empty air

No cars on the road

No people on the sidewalks.

Nothing

Only cold.

When we walk to the store, we see soldiers

Mother doesn't like them

She says they hurt the innocents

I thought soldiers are supposed to protect
people.

On our way to the store, I hear a scream

Mother tells me to close my eyes

I cannot help but look

I see soldiers pulling people and aiming their
guns

We rush into a store

I feel the drums beating again

She starts to cry

I cry too.

After we eat dinner, I check on the innocents in

When Will the Screaming Stop?

the cellar

I hear a knock at the door

Nobody ever knocks on our door this late

Mother runs to the cellar and tells us to stay

silent

I feel the drumming again

“Mr. and Mrs. Krauze, you do know the
punishments for helping those filthy humans?”

“Yes sir.”

Is he talking about the innocents?

Before I to go to sleep, mother and father come

into my room, looking scared

I have never seen them like this

“Patryk, you must not tell anyone about the
innocents.”

“But, why mother?”

“Because the soldiers will hurt us too.”

Mother says there are a lot of people that don't

help the innocents

We cannot be the only ones to help

The screaming needs to stop

When Will the Screaming Stop?

I lie awake in my bed

Mother's words replay in my head

I feel the drums beating an uneasy rhythm

When I wake up in the morning, mother is not
there

I check the cellar, the innocents are still here

Mother must have gone out

She never leaves without telling me

What if something bad happened?

I dismiss my fear and start walking to school.

I walk by the train station and encounter a sea of
people

Some are crying

Why are they leaving?

I see mother rushing people into our car

Maybe they are innocents

I see a soldier yelling and chasing the car

I feel the drums, they are beating fast

I run to school.

I lay in bed at night, my sight slowly decreasing

I hear the screaming

When Will the Screaming Stop?

It echoes in my body ringing up and down

The drums play again

There are so many innocents being hurt

Why won't people help them?

When will the screaming stop?

When Will the Screaming Stop?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Some Were Neighbors." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. Web. 7 Dec. 2014.

<<http://somereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/gallery>>.

Fleischman, Paul, and Eric Beddows. *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988. Print.

Yad Vashem. Web. 13 Nov. 2014. <[http://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft Word - 577.pdf](http://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20577.pdf)>.

Yad Vashem. Web. 13 Dec. 2014. <[http://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft Word - 578.pdf](http://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20578.pdf)>.

"Treblinka." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 20 June 2014. Web. 20 Nov. 2014.

<<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005193>>.

"Polish Underground State." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation. Web. 20 Dec. 2014.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Underground_State>.