

Day by Day

By Okpe Maku

It was dark

All I remember was the darkness

Within me and without

It was dark

Lights

The ones that make you into a star

Soon enough would be cast upon me

Against me

Around me

Around me, I could feel cold, dry hands

I could not recognize

Soon enough would brush against places only a mother would fondle

A mother would care for

Yet I was silent

The screams I wish to scream were hidden in fear

Fear of him

Him

I dare not to ever whisper his name in the crippling fear of who would hear

If he would hear

So I stayed silent

As hours passed and the days got longer

Not one shout escaped through my lungs

Even though he wanted it to

How did the career I was promised

The money I was vowed

Turn into the bruises and pain that could never be taken away

The nights of starvation

Awaiting for salvation

That never came through

And so

I waited

My Hope grew slim as the walls were closing in as each minute grew longer, as my legs grew smaller

By each

Passing

Day

Lights grew brighter and the nights stretched longer as I waited

For the rolled red carpet and gold plated awards, waiting for me on the other side

But the other side grew fainter, as the weeks stretched into months

Then eventually into a year

Until waiting was deemed hopeless

It was the same thing played again, and again, and I knew I could never get out

Unless I could shout

Until I could scream

I was invisible

So I brushed my lips of its binded traps

And screamed

Screamed like my life depended on it

Because it did

I screamed till my lungs were empty and after

I screamed again

Light entered the room as salvation came through, and I knew

I knew

I was never forgotten

Time passed by, but I grew by each day

Each smile grew longer

Each laugh rang truer

As each day shown brighter

As bright as that light

On that cold summer night
I knew I was never forsaken
So I live true
I am never forgotten
I only grow stronger
Day by day