

## In the Shadow of the Bars

Can you hear:

Clanking echoes  
of a steel gate?  
Razor wire  
slicing the wind?  
Rape  
in the shower?

Can you hear:

Shots  
that killed his brother?  
Young men  
wrestling their dreams?  
Angry knives and guns  
on their streets?

Can you hear:

“I swear to you,  
I didn’t kill him.”  
“Oh God forgive me,  
please God”?  
“I pray the Lord  
my soul to take”?

Can you hear:

An old man cry?  
The quiet of alone?  
A freight train  
rolling home?

by Arlin Buyert