

when i hear a shout
i am suddenly 8 again

you ran around the mall
not letting us have the car keys
i thought it was funny at first
oh how innocent i was

we got you outside
you screamed at her
she screamed back at you
and i cried
i just cried
i wanted to shout
do anything
be anywhere
but there

two strangers tried to help
two street side smokers
two boys i won't ever forget
i wish i could write you a letter
thanking you
for more than the slushie you bought me
for trying
for caring for a strange little girl
crying on the corner
shouting at adults to stop fighting

sometimes i don't remember that moment
but something will always bring it back
whether it's a loud voice
a jcpenny poster
a blue raspberry slushie
the hot summer sun
or my underlying fear around men like you
-phantom poet