

# HEAR ME, I'M STILL HERE

*Samantha Hurt, MA  
Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences*

My body is weak.  
My arm drifts down  
My leg won't hold me  
My once strong voice  
Is only a whisper.

Vowels change form  
Suddenly, my fluent tongue  
Is no longer understood  
But I'm still here,  
And I have a voice.

I still know Shakespeare,  
Can tell the nurse that TV  
Is sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing,  
Turn it off!

I still know the intimate  
Workings of DNA  
And humor  
And fear,  
And I'm still here.

One nurse hears me.  
She sees my pain,  
She massages my healing body  
And speaks  
In the tender language of the soul.  
She doesn't have to do that,  
But she hears me.

One nurse doesn't hear me.  
I ask questions  
About her family and her life  
But I can only whisper.  
She thinks I am mumbling  
Incoherent  
And doesn't hear—  
I am invisible to her.

I'm still here.  
I have a voice.  
Some can hear me,  
Some cannot.  
Will you?

*Samantha Hurt, a Tallahassee native, got her BA in Anthropology/Sociology from Rhodes College and her MA in Chinese Studies from the University of Michigan. She enjoys languages, traveling, cooking, martial arts, reading, and doing any combination thereof with her fiancé.*