

# Poetry

## I'm So Sorry I Have To Die (A Tribute To Children Of War)

Mama, what is happening?

What is that sound?

Mama, I am scared.

What is happening to the ground?

Mama, why are you crying?

Please don't be sad.

Mama, are you angry with me?

Was I being bad?

Mama, why are your hands shivering so?

Sit down to eat.

Mama, why do your eyes look so big?

I'm not upset because there's no meat.

Mama, who's that at the door?

Why does he have a gun?

Mama, I'm afraid of him.

Why does he ask if you have a son?

Mama, why is he shouting at you?

Now I'm getting scared.

Mama, please tell him to leave.

I know before you wouldn't have dared.

Mama, why won't he leave?

Why is he scratching in the house?

Mama, what does he want?

We're not even hiding a mouse!

Mama, why do we have to go outside?

What about my food?

Mama, I'm really hungry.

He is not being very good.

Mama, why is he throwing out our stuff?

What did we do wrong?

Mama, when is Papa coming?

He really needs to move along.

Mama, what is that big thing?

What is it for?

Mama, why is it going towards our house?

Why are they breaking down the door?

Mama, please stop them.

My cars are still inside.

Mama, how can they do this?

Don't they know both my brothers have died?

Mama, please don't cry.

Look, I will stop them.

Mama, don't worry about me.

They won't shoot a child of ten!

Mama, I am your protector,

While Papa is not here.

Mama, I am your brave soldier.

You don't have to fear.

Mama, why are they aiming at me?

Don't they understand?

Mama, tell them I have to look after you,

There is no other man!

Mama, it hurts, it hurts so much!  
I'm sorry I couldn't protect you.  
Mama, what is happening to me?  
Why is the sky no longer blue?  
Mama, where are you going?  
I cannot see your eyes.  
Mama, are you angry with me?  
I can hear your sorrowed cries.  
Mama, I know I've disappointed you,  
But I love you with all my heart.  
Mama, I wish I could stay with you  
And that we would never be apart.  
Mama, I don't feel the pain anymore,  
And you don't have to cry.  
Mama, everything will be okay  
I'm so sorry I have to die...

- Mariam Salie