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## It could've been me

Claire Riddell

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# It could've been me

Claire Riddell

My skin is an experience  
my mom has never had to have.  
Despite adopting two brown kids,  
she'll never fully understand.  
How do I tell her that blue uniforms  
are a source for nervous hands?  
That passing those in MAGA hats  
are cause for nervous glance?  
The times we watch the nightly news  
and she hears the words: "I can't breathe",  
she only hears Eric Garner's voice.  
My mom does not hear me.  
How can I explain the pain that I feel  
from the anthem, "Build The Wall"?  
That even though I'm a citizen,  
I still suffer the hate of it all?  
And when we watch the nightly news,  
and El Paso clips fill our screen,  
she quickly changes the channel so that  
my mom does not see me.  
She doesn't feel uncomfortable  
walking past police.  
She doesn't feel eyes bore into her  
when discussing diversity.  
She doesn't wince at confederate flags  
or anti-immigrant speech.  
She doesn't ever watch the news  
and think, that could've been me.