

The Prisoner

She doesn't understand

what it means to be "guilty."

She waits at the prison entrance

until she sees him, to say,

"Take care of yourself,"

as she always used to remind him

when he went off to school

when he left for work,

when he returned on vacation.

She doesn't understand

what they are saying now

at the back of the podium

in their official uniforms.

They report that he should be kept there

with lonely strangers.

It never occurred to her,

as she sang lullabies on his bed

in those distant days,

someday, he would end up in this cold place

without windows or moons.

She doesn't understand,

the prisoner's mother doesn't understand

why she should leave him

just because

“The visit is over.”