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Holocaust Writing, Art, and Film Contest 2019**

“Carla Peperzak”

The words “Never Again” echo in our hearts but not in our world-

Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda

Yet again to lie witness to the same terrors.

How can a meaningless speck of a person like me prevent that?

But then I remember

She was just about my age

I go to school and sports practice after,

So does she.

She risks her life to save her Uncle’s family,

I cannot dream of a situation that would require such a thing

She dresses as an SS nurse

With a good heart within,

Risks her next breath to see to the millions of others’.

No one told her to do such a deed-

After all, that heart-rendering “J.” had disappeared from her fate.

What can it be that beckoned her to step forward?

Out of her safe teenage cove and into the vile realm of a world.

Where does one draw a line that says-

“this all that I can do for you”?

She goes back into the battle for the Jew.

She showed the world that girls like me and her are capable-  
of more than we can ever dream of.

Because of her I wonder,

If there is something around me that I fail to discover.

If I fail to see the whole story of the those around me

If somewhere in my society, are the people who need help

Will we ever recognize that they need us?

Need us to stand up

Need us to step outside our cocoon of a world.

Need us to do more

Be more.

In that way, isn't my world and hers more similar than different?

The difference is that she recognized what was needed of her

And I cowered?

No not yet, the sun hasn't set yet and the night hasn't fallen

The light still shines, there is still time

Time to stand up

To step outside my cocoon of a world

To do more

And to be more than I can ever dream of.