

# City of Factories

Sony and GE invest their money.  
Money is needed; let's see what this is about.  
Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty.

A warehouse is filled with large machinery.  
Televisions are pieced together and shipped out.  
Sony and GE invest their money.

I work so many hours a day, nowhere to flee.  
I'm a maquiladora lady, a slave no doubt.  
Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty.

If I don't stay in line, they'll replace me easily.  
Repetition of movements, my mind was forced to walkout.  
Sony and GE invest their money.

Some of us unite to fight this misery.  
They move to Indonesia, but can't escape my shout!  
Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty.

We must dissolve this third world mentality!  
Enough is enough, they must be shutout!  
Sony and GE invest their money.  
Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty.

Celia Gaitz  
*The University of Arizona*

## Poem review

In this villanelle, the poet vividly alludes to the unjust working conditions in the ever-so-present maquiladoras of the U.S.-Mexican border as she highlights the human emotions that result from suffering this type of monotonous job. She presents the reader with the verbal reality of how “Sony and GE invest their money” and how “Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty”, alternating these two verses as a somber chorus throughout the length of the poem. The poetic voice of a female employee reflects upon the hardship she faces at the expense of globalization. The image of the body, the eyes and hands, put the poem into perspective, as the reader can clearly imagine a laborer whose hands are her livelihood. The aforementioned synecdoche of “Profit in their eyes leaves my hands empty” powerfully conveys how the watchful eyes of authority imagine gain and success without considering their employees who are left with little on which to survive. The idea of profit is paired with its antithesis, emptiness, a harsh contrast representing the reality of the have’s and have-not’s of the globalized world.

The brilliant movement relayed in the poem from the beginning to the end demonstrates the beginnings of the packaging process of the products in the warehouse to their distribution to all corners of the world. This forward movement is contrasted with the feeling of entrapment that the poetic voice experiences, as the services rendered by Sony and GE, much like their products, are geographically relocated; the poetic voice, however, is forced to stay and work, with “nowhere to flee”. She not only quickly realizes that she could be replaced but that she is really no longer needed. The fourth and fifth stanzas highlight the question of existence, of the destiny of those who work in the maquiladora, whose lives are controlled by multi-million dollar companies. This likewise leaves the reader pondering over the compelling image of the need for long overdue change in Latin America, expressed with the apostrophe “We must dissolve this third world mentality!/ Enough is enough, they must be shutout!”

Teresa M. Lorenz  
*The University of Arizona*