

Wilderness House Literary Review 6/1

Jessie Carty
4 to Go

She had seen them go into the closet as a trio: Brother 1, Brother 2, Sister 3. She would have been Sister 4 if she had been invited. Brother 1 had an orange. Brother 2 became the door to the open closet which was more like a hall. Sister 4 went outside to skip rope: 1 for the money, 2 for the show, 3 to get ready, 4 to GO!

In bed, Brother 2 asked Sister 4 to touch it. She did. It felt like a pencil, like the kind she had used last year in kindergarten, fatter than the pencils her mother had bought her for first grade. Brother 2 put his hand on top of Sister 4's underwear. She was wearing an old, holey pair. He found the hole. He told her, in third person, that she should always wear those to bed.

Brother 1 didn't live with them. Sister 3 was too small to play with them. Sister 4 and Brother 2 made up new games with Sister 4 always on the ground and Brother 2 doing push-ups. Sister 4 got in trouble one day when her shorts fell off. They were too big and she was running through the back yard. She wasn't wearing any underwear. It was easier to play in less clothing.

At some point they stopped. Perhaps when school started again or maybe once Brother 1 was told he would never visit again after Sister 3 was blamed for not telling sooner. Sister 3 had only been 3. Sister 4, never told on Brother 2. She didn't want to explain how good it had felt.