Siblings

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol26/iss1/80
She came squalling into his third year
to mess with his monopoly on the world's attention.
HE cuddled her infancy with Lenny-love
that could crush the soft, furry object of his fascination.
He was always there with an invasive embrace
as if he might squeeze out of her
any need to be near him.
She spent years annoying him with adoration,
pestering with peevish pleas--
she, that barely bearable nuisance who
shared the same progenitors
and adulterated all potential soccer spaces with dolls.

Now she is in all things lovely and wise,
can advise and is fine
in a way that makes even his buddies take note.

This is the summer they become friends,
secure the same menial labor, take a road trip west,
destination chosen with the toss of a coin--
brother and sister in a borrowed car
with a few spare days and a long flat pain to cross.