

## At My Sister's House

At my sister's house --  
giggles at the door  
"Auntie V is here, Auntie V is here!"  
too much excitement  
for the four-year-old,  
even for the seven-year-old  
mm, bread baking  
giving the house the scent of home.

Dinner -- pizza and salad and  
grown-up conversations.  
Tori listens, and understands  
more than we realize.  
She breaks in with a story  
"-- two of my friends at school. . ."  
Later we realize she wasn't  
changing the subject.  
Thomas, bored, shows us his  
plum "lookit this."

Bedtime, Tori changes  
slowly into pink flannel  
stretching the evening to its  
elastic limits with more stories.  
Thomas undresses, shows off  
his uniqueness -- "He hasn't  
learned to be shy yet."  
Tori brushes her teeth "Mom  
brushes Thomas's." "No, I want  
Auntie V"  
Auntie V doesn't know how.

Kids are down -- sighs as we  
settle into sofas. Desserts,  
decaf, decompression.

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