

Samia

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [August 11, 2021](#) issue

She was five when her mother left her  
At the movies with her baby brother and  
Never returned which could have been  
The end of the story though it's not—  
Who knows why—maybe popcorn or  
Her brother, or maybe grace; it's hard  
To find the truth sometimes, but she made  
It seem simple how we're meant to live,  
When every day as I arrived she ran  
To wrap her arms around me, nuzzling in  
Beneath my shirt until she felt us skin to skin.  
Then she went still, like water waiting, and,  
For a moment, so did I.