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## She is Just Sleeping

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I remember sitting through the service and watching everyone weep. I remember how sticky and suffocating the air seemed when we sat for the burial. I remember feeling like my life was over. I remember questioning God, of whom little I knew of, and my entire existence and being. I remember thinking to myself how selfish I was for only trying to protect myself while the car was rolling. I even remember wishing that it was me that they were burying that day. Suddenly I felt as though my short six and a half years in this world were actually millennia.

I am now almost twenty-years old. Last year I found out that my Dad had not been in a car wreck, but instead had stuck a gun in his mouth on the side of an abandoned road. Although I thought once that I would never be happy again, I am. Despite the fact that I was never truly a child again after those cruel days, I do find joy and goodness in life. I never wanted to be a "why God-er," but I do admit that I will never understand why they had to be taken from me. I will never be truly healed but I know now that I can move forward. I write my story not to invoke sorrow or sympathy for myself or my family, but merely out of memory and respect for my guardian angels, whom taught me to cherish life, love, and family above all, and whom I know are smiling down at me now.

### **She is Just Sleeping**

JESSIE MANN

She is just sleeping,  
her arms folded so neatly, as though  
she stood at a wedding. I could almost hear the bells  
ringing.

She is just sleeping.  
Her eyes sealed shut like someone ran a zipper across,  
but they could still flutter open once she returns  
from that blissful place our minds take us in slumber.

She is just sleeping,  
wearing a lovely silk gown with flowers surrounding her,  
covering her inch by inch. She always did adore daisies,  
but I do not see any.

She is just sleeping.  
Her mouth is so still, but her lips look as though  
they just might move  
into a tiny smile.

So goodnight, my friend. Sweet dreams.  
We can talk as soon as you wake up. After all,  
you  
are  
just  
sleeping.