

You used to take care of your stuffed animals, didn't you?
Rotate the times they got to sleep in your bed,
so no one felt left out.
Make sure they were comfortable, sometimes more than you were.
You would tell them how much you loved them,
and imagine them whispering it back to you.
As the days got longer,
and the rest of the kids started sleeping alone,
you stopped taking care of them.
Your fingers clenched where they used to caress, and
you stopped rotating, letting all of them sleep in your closet.
Justifying it with the fact that you weren't the only one growing up,
they were too.
But now, years after the big switch from mattress to floor, you miss them.
You feel left out.
After all of this time, maybe they don't want to come back.
Maybe they're holding a grudge.
You grew up too fast,
you were rash and didn't care,
you didn't love them enough.
It's okay.
Your stuffed animals still love you.

~Quinn