



FOR SIBLINGS WHO SURVIVE

By Dr Julie Jones, Psychiatrist, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

We have been the neglected ones who through the weeks and months and years have had to cope and dry our tears and try to be good daughters, sons.

We are the children who have lost our brother, or our sister too. Our troubles may be only few and yet we know that we've been tossed ... from Aunt to Uncle, then to friend; we've had to find our way to school and try so hard not to look a fool with tears held back as we defend ... the things our Mothers have forgotten, the way we look all cross or sad and other kids can make you made ... they may not know you're feeling rotten.

For we never did say we're sorry and felt so jealous of all those toys. We had mean thoughts like lots of boys. We couldn't quite understand the worry.

We never said "I love you Sis". We sometimes felt that Dad was kind and had her always in his mind but as for us, we'd not be missed.

So we're the children who've survived through the days and nights and hours, have learnt to re-build up our towers and not admit, we too are tired.

Yet, we have been the losing ones, who've done without our Dads, our Mums. Learnt our homework, done our sums ... still we're your daughters and your sons.

So now you mourn the one whose dead. Please feel for us, who too are sad; we've tried so hard not to be bad. Wanted to tell you, but have not said ... "Mummy we are here, beside you", "Daddy, look you need us too, there are so many things to do. There still is love for us and you".

We are the siblings who are here. We will not forget our brother. We need our Dad and our Mother, so try to love us without fear.

We will survive and love and learn. We've found our way in life to be our own selves and you will see that now it really is our turn.

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