

Residents

"Their Early Years"

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Once when we were on a bus between some cities we
discussed the things
that happened in their early years. Their youngest time
was spent alone
while living with an uncle only half remaining from a
foreign war. His
upper half was well enough, but in the pants between
his cuffs where his
zipper stopped, his legs were gone. And so he rolled
around on wheels,
self sufficient in a peeling little house he could not
paint again. But it
was spotless to the point of two feet above the floor
and warmth was in
his laugh and in his smiling face. The people that they
met were few and
might have been disturbed by two who looked so
strange, but they were not
aware. For living with their stumpy uncle, who was
unconcerned and
rumped, made them see things differently. They
thought that we were put
together randomly, just like the weather, with no
uniformity in mind. But
that vision only lasted for a while until he passed away
and they were
sent off to a home. The children there did not have
parents, were all
alike and always staring, as they sat on chairs above
the ground. So they
cried and then with drew from those that shouted,
laughed and who were mean
because of suffering inside. Once alone they heard
some children shouting
that a car had killed one of their pets out in the road
ahead. As they
approached the fallen body, blood appeared and then
they saw a leg that
had been torn away somehow. So they kneeled upon
the ground and lifted up
the leg they found and wedged it gently just below the
spot where both

their shoulders joined together. Then the sun, which
had been setting,
winked and for a moment all was dark. And when the
sun returned above
them, no one laughed and made fun of them, for the
dog was licking at the
joint, barking loud and resurrected and causing them
to be respected by
those who had avoided them before.

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