

# All Eve's Children

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [January 24, 2006](#) issue

It was not meant as exclusionary,  
the way the boy  
laid his arm along the pew,  
not touching her back  
but cupping the bowl of his hand  
over the girl's shoulder,  
exactly the way  
his father encircled his mother  
in decorous Sunday embrace.

Near in age and adoring,  
his forsaken younger sister  
saw the story of all Eve's children,  
an enacted parable of man leaving  
father and mother to cling to wife,  
heard Scylla and Charybdis' seductive hymn,  
felt the tension of two great loves,  
perceived in a piercing moment  
ties tighter than the bonds of blood.