

**Sarah Dowling**

from *Keepness*

*as we combed our hair*  
*for ourselves*

In stroking already the  
hide in the and  
both now darker and softer  
. held, the  
, the birds. those  
. Whether is even  
.

The thick hair between two tables.

when is drifting. But over the  
that have touched.  
small marking slowness. The  
and its skin.  
are with spaces  
.

*in stroking the shoreline*

The hide of the girls and  
. There are some  
them. Without the of  
birds in the doorway, a is  
slowly. Held a little , the  
arm a chest. tables and  
the slowness .

Some small , . A  
little water.

Stroking a doorway, hair  
this. and the three girls  
were sleeping there. But over the  
touched them, a  
closer. The within .  
That's how they were when I .

*“to lay hold” with the hands*

A clasp or fastening into the silence of  
stroke  
there is a fallen  
nest, . A background in endless  
tends

of have, hold, keep. The  
which pass  
progressive

Hair across the couch, a chest, a chair.

A , pond, . A  
water. White  
feathers  
, watch. To intercept  
a way. These  
the notions of three or more girls.  
so indefinite and so dependent

*I thought a halter*

Outside of the , fold the .  
beak the flesh.  
Shelter thick .  
and over.  
to the bed section. Belts  
and quiet . rests  
at .

Closed behind me, three girls lying  
there.

Uncertainty makes it whether  
they . Hold has  
moreover  
fastening. I felt the move and she  
following, some  
first under .  
In there is a close .

*sparrowed* into the shelterbelt,

A close keep and  
into and around it. The three girls  
knot each inhale. A  
little bit over and accents. A  
stop or preventing, may also called  
shelter.

A chest, my chest within. And every  
chair.

the house-sparrow,  
. Where it is very  
common. Used  
endearment,  
. Or other small birds in some way  
. My sleeve stretched  
the water.

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