



5-1-2017

I'm Her Brother

Sheryl L. Nelms

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nelms, Sheryl L. (2017) "I'm Her Brother," *Westview*: Vol. 33: Iss. 1, Article 4.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol33/iss1/4>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



I'm Her Brother

by Sheryl L. Nelms

black ducktail
slicked and
reslicked
with a blue pic

black satin ribbon for a headband

"It's getting hot"
he says as he takes off the
top three mudded sports coats and hangs
them on the silver chain-link fence

"Are you glad to see me?" he asks
leaning into her face
brown teeth grinning wide

she doesn't say
anything just nods and shrinks
bending into the fence

"This is my sister"
he says to me

I lean and sidestep
two feet north



he adjusts his
boggy muddy
pinstripe dress slacks
at least three sizes too big
held up by an even bigger black belt

"How's Rickey?" he asks her
she folds tighter into herself and
pushes back into the silver fence

I bob and weave
sidestep again and catch the glint
of sunshine on a silver dime cocked in his left ear

and wonder if that makes life sound richer to him