Innocence

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down dark, snaking stairs
where monsters hid
and spiders crept
we make our way
through secret passages
to the place we called
Our Own
where the dreaded furnace
with its flame filled belly
and coal scorched skin
watched us... as we became
what we wanted to become
in the place we called
Our Own
where rusty nails
carpeted the cold,
damp, grey cement
we laid on our stomachs
skidding marbles
and building block castles
in the place we called
Our Own
where we held
our weekly meetings
and eyed intruders
through a peep-hole
and played dungeon
in the place we called
Our Own
where we had seances
and told tales of
ghosts and goblins
and strangers in the darkness
...and of growing older
in the place we called
Our Own

Tracy Kiefer