Tooth Mouse and Lions

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The house used to be surrounded with lion. They roamed then, only in my imagination. But, the green snake I met at the water fountain was real. I screamed all the way back home.

I had my own bedroom, next to my parents'. Bars at the windows scared me. How would the tooth mouse be able to enter, and what about the cat?

A long corridor had to be traveled to get to the toilet. I asked my cat Minouche and dog Mabrouk to go with me. How else to risk such a voyage alone at night in the dark?

To attract my parents' attention, I turned upside down in my bed. My father came to help me get my world back in the right direction again.

I would try to persuade Minouche and Mabrouk to share this black bedroom space with me. Thoughts of guilt erupted together with the pleasure I had traveling slowly on my own body.

I remember ardently asking God to forgive me for it. The inner decor remains blurry. The feelings themselves are dark. I was six then, in Nairobi.

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