

## *Part 1 - Times and Places*

### **Chapter 5 – Favorite Place with Brother** (circa 1948)

In the Spring of 1948, I am not aware of Mother being pregnant. I have a faint memory in late spring of someone mentioning that a baby will soon arrive. I do not remember Mother being larger than usual. She is large anyway.

Mother is missing for a few days. One afternoon, MomMom tells me to go outside and wait for Father and Mother to arrive. I play and wait. It is sometime in May.

Finally, they pull onto the dirt driveway. Father gets out and moves to get Mother's door. They all come around the front of the car slowly carrying a bundle of blankets and stop to let me see.

There is little Brother. He is bundled up tight I see rosy cheeks and closed eyes. He is small. He cannot even stand up, much less walk or run with me. He certainly does not meet my expectations. I want someone to play with.

Anyway, there is a lot of fussing and cooing for weeks. I sometimes wonder if they know I am still around. I learn to accept that I am not going to get the attention I am used to.

I learn to live with it. Actually, I learn to appreciate it. It means I have less supervision. I have more time to explore. They have no idea where I will go or what I will do..

But, I am *joyfully free*.

