



## Wish Could Belle Grace Wilkinson

tell her that it gets easier
as I brush back her frizzy curls
behind her small and sinless ear,
that the world will grow kinder,
and that she'll be the heartbreaker
strutting around like she owns the place,
that her sweet tears will fall less,
and her smile will show more,
and the monsters in her closet
are just a bad dream.

tell her it's all just a bad dream, but I'd just be lying to both of us.