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Running with Scissors

Jessica Stewart

Maddy is six years old. She goes to school. She is in first grade. Maddy has a little brother. His name is Davey. Davey does pesky things to Maddy. Sometimes, Maddy fights with Davey. Their mom does not like it when they fight, but sometimes Mom fights too. Mom fights with Dad when he does not come straight home from work. Maddy and Davey do not like this.

At school, Maddy does not fight. She listens to the teacher. But sometimes when Maddy thinks about Mom and Dad, she forgets to listen. This makes the teacher very mad. The teacher puts Maddy in time out. Maddy cries because the other kids laugh. They say she is too dumb to listen. This makes Maddy angry.

One day, when Maddy comes home angry, Davey wants her to play Power Rangers. Maddy does not want to play. She tells Davey to stop pestering her, but he does not listen. Maddy sees a pair of sharp scissors on her mom's desk. She picks them up and snips them at Davey to make him go away. Davey screams and runs into the living room. Maddy thinks this is funny. She chases after him, snipping as he screams.

Maddy thinks that now she is pestering Davey. Now she is getting back at him. She chases Davey into his room. Davey climbs onto his bed and scrunches down in the corner against the wall. Maddy follows him, laughing and snip-snip-sniping. Davey puts his hands over his face and Maddy snips.

There is blood on his hands and his face. Maddy stops and sees that Davey is scared—scared of her. She looks at the blood and Davey starts to cry. Maddy is not laughing now. She starts to cry and cry. Davey won't pester her now because he is afraid of her.