

# Where Children Sleep

Photographs by James Mollison

01



*Lay Lay, 4, Thailand*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Lay Lay is four years old. The cream on her face is made from the bark of a Thanaka Tree, used to condition and protect the skin. Lay Lay lives in May Sot, Thailand, close to the border with Burma. When her mother died, no other members of her family came to claim her so she was placed in an orphanage. She shares this home with twenty-one other nursery-aged children. The orphanage consists of two rooms. During the day, one room is a classroom and the other is the dinning room. At night these rooms become the bedrooms. The tables are pushed aside and mats are rolled out for the children to sleep on. Each child has one drawer to keep their belongings, Lay Lay doesn't have many belongings - just a few clothes. All that is known of her background is that she comes from an ethnic group of people called Karen, one of the persecuted minority ethnic groups which make up about 40 percent of the Burmese population. Lay Lay and her mother fled from the brutal Burmese military dictatorship and arrived in Thailand as refugees.

02



*Lay Lay, 4, Thailand*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

The photograph shows a child's bedroom in an orphanage. The room is filled with numerous small, colorful drawers (red, blue, green, and yellow) arranged in rows on a shelf. The drawers are labeled with names and numbers. A small table and a chair are visible in the background.

03



*Kaya, 4, Tokyo, Japan*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Kaya is four years old. She lives in a small apartment with her parents in Tokyo, Japan. Most apartments in Japan are small because land is very expensive to buy and there is such a large population to accommodate. Kaya's bedroom is every little girl's dream. It's lined from floor to ceiling with clothes and dolls. Kaya's mother makes all of Kaya's dresses - up to three a month usually. Now Kaya has thirty dresses and coats, thirty pairs of shoes, sandals, and boots and numerous wigs (the pigtails in the picture are made from hairpieces). Her friends love to come round to try on her clothes. When she goes to school however she has to wear a school uniform. Her favorite foods are meat, potatoes, strawberries and peaches. She wants to be a cartoonist when she grows up drawing Japanese Anime cartoons.

## Where Children Sleep

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04



*Kaya, 4, Tokyo, Japan*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

05



*Jasmine, 4, Kentucky, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Jasmine prefers to be called by her nickname, Jazzy. She lives in a big house in Kentucky, USA, with her parents and three brothers. Her house is in the countryside, surrounded by farmland. Her bedroom is full of crowns and sashes which she has won in child pageants. She is only four years old and has already entered over a hundred of these competitions. Her spare time is completely taken up with preparation and rehearsal. She practises her stage routines every day with a trainer who teaches her new steps. Each weekend, she participates in a different pageant, arriving on Friday afternoon, performing on Saturday, and attending the crowning ceremony on Sunday. By the end of the show, she is quite exhausted. Jazzy enjoys being pampered and treated like a princess - having her hair done and wearing pretty clothes and make-up with false nails and a fake tan. It is a very expensive hobby and can cost her parents a thousand dollars for each pageant she takes part in. Jazzy would like to be a rock star when she grows up.

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*Jasmine, 4, Kentucky, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Romanian Boy, 4, Rome, Italy*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Home for this four-year-old boy and his family is a mattress in a field on the outskirts of Rome, Italy. The family came from Romania by bus after begging on the streets for enough money to pay for their tickets (€100 per adult and €80 per child). When they first arrived in Rome, they camped in a tent, but the police threw them off the site because they were trespassing on private land and did not have the correct documents. Now the family sleep together on the mattress in the open. When it rains, they hastily erect a tent and use umbrellas for shelter, hoping they will not be spotted by the police. They left Romania without identity documents or work papers and so are unable to obtain legal employment. This boy sits by the curbside while his parents clean car windscreens at traffic lights, to earn thirty to fifty cents a time. No one from the boy's family has ever been to school. His parents cannot read or write.

08



*Romanian Boy, 4, Rome, Italy*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

09



*Bilal, 6, Wadi Abu Hindi, the West Bank*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Bilal is a Bedouin and lives with his parents and five brothers and sisters in the West Bank. Israel governs through the Civil Administration to whom all Palestinians and Bedouins (although not Israeli settlers) must apply for a permit to build their houses. Israel has zoned almost all of the West Bank as agricultural land on which you cannot build therefore deny the permits to the Palestinians and Bedouins who apply. Bilal's family laid foundations for their house five years ago but the Israeli military bulldozed the house three years later and imprisoned his father for 18 months for "Israeli security reasons." The family has since laid new foundations for their home but fear the military will demolish their home again.

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*Bilal, 6, Wadi Abu Hindi, the West Bank*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

11



*Lehlohonolo, 6, Lesotho, southern Africa*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Lehlohonolo is six years old. He and his three brothers live in Lesotho, in southern Africa. The boys are orphans-their father died from AIDS some years ago and they have not heard from their mother since she went away in search of work. It is likely that she also died from an AIDS-related illness. It is quite common in Lesotho for mothers and fathers to die as a result of AIDS, and there are growing numbers of orphans. Lehlohonolo's sixteen-year-old brother is responsible for looking after the family. The boys live in a mud hut where his younger brothers sleep together on the floor, cuddling up to each other for warmth during the freezing cold nights. Two of Lehlohonolo's brothers go to a school eight kilometres away where they are also given monthly rations of food-cereal, pulses and oil. They cannot remember the last time they ate meat. Sadly, they will probably live in poverty for the rest of their lives because crops are difficult to grow on the infertile land and there are no prospects of employment.

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*Lehlohonolo, 6, Lesotho, southern Africa*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Indira, 7, Kathmandu, Nepal*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Indira lives with her parents, brother and sister near Kathmandu in Nepal. Her house has only one room, with one bed and one mattress. At bedtime, the children share the mattress on the floor. Indira is seven years old and has worked at the local granite quarry since she was three. The family is very poor so everyone has to work. There are 150 other children working at the quarry, some of whom will lose their sight because they do not have goggles to protect their eyes from stone splinters. Indira works five or six hours a day and then helps her mother with household chores such as cleaning and cooking. Her favourite food is noodles. She also attends school, which is a thirty minute walk away. She does not mind working at the quarry but would prefer to be playing. She would like to be a Nepalese dancer when she grows up.

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*Indira, 7, Kathmandu, Nepal*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

15



*Roathy, 8, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Roathy is eight years old. He lives on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. His home sits on a huge rubbish dump which is swarming with flies. They re-use whatever they can find. Roathy's mattress, for instance, is made from old tires. The air is thick with the stench of decomposing waste, and the ground underfoot is soft and stringy - one wrong step and it gives way to a black poisonous liquid. Five thousand people live and work and pay rent here. At six o' clock every morning, Roathy and hundreds of other children are given a shower and breakfast at a local charity center before they start work, scavenging through the rubbish for cans and plastic bottles which are sold to a recycling company. Breakfast is often the only meal of the day. On one occasion, Roathy's family suffered food poisoning after eating chicken which his brother found in the dump.

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*Roathy, 8, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

17



*Justin, 8, New Jersey, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Eight-year-old Justin is passionate about sports, and his bedroom is decorated with a sports theme. He plays American football, basketball and baseball, and is active throughout the year, changing sports according to the season. During the football season he has to practise three times a week. This is his favourite sport. He has played for his local junior football team since the age of five. Justin's parents give him a lot of encouragement despite the expensive kit they have to provide for him. He goes to school on the school bus with other children from his neighbourhood. The family live in New Jersey, USA, in a four-bedroom house, and they spend two weeks each summer on holiday on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. Justin has high expectations for his future. He would like to become the mayor of New Jersey. But if not, he would settle for being a poker player.

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*Justin, 8, New Jersey, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Alyssa, Appalachia, Kentucky, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Alyssa lives with her parents in Kentucky, USA. She is an only child but her grandmother, uncle and orphaned cousin live close by. It is a beautiful, mountainous region known as Appalachia but one of the poorest parts of America. Their small, shabby house, heated only by a wooden stove, is falling apart. The ceiling in Alyssa's bedroom is beginning to cave in. The family would like to buy a caravan instead, if they could afford it. Alyssa's mother works at McDonatd's and her father works at Walmart, and everything they earn goes towards bringing up their daughter. She is lucky that her parents have jobs, even though they earn very little. Many local families are unemployed and have to rely on charity. There is a huge problem with drug misuse in the area, and two of Alyssa's relatives have already died from drug-related problems.

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*Alyssa, Appalachia, Kentucky, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Ahkôhxtet, 8, Amazon Basin*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Ahkôhxtet is eight years old and a member of the Kraho tribe, who live in the basin of the river Amazon, in Brazil. There are only 1,900 members of the tribe. The Kraho people believe that the sun and moon were creators of the universe, and they engage in rituals that are many centuries old. The red paint on Ahkôhxtet's chest is from one of his tribe's rituals. The elders teach Ahkôhxtet's generation to respect nature and their surroundings. Their huts are arranged in a circle, leaving space in the middle for gatherings and ceremonies to take place. The nearby river provides water for drinking and washing. The tribe grow half their food in the poor soil using basic tools. They also hunt. The rest of their food is bought using money earned from film crews and photographers who visit their camp. There is one car shared between the whole tribe.

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*Ahkôhset, 8, Amazon Basin*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

23



*Dong, 9, Yunnan, China*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Dong is nine years old. He lives in the province of Yunnan in Southwest China, with his parents, sister and grandfather. He shares a room with his sister and parents. They are a poor family who own just enough land to grow their own rice and sugar cane. Dong's school is twenty minutes' walk away. He especially enjoys writing and singing. Most evenings, he spends one hour completing his homework and one hour watching television. His parents have to pay for his books and uniform but his tuition is free because he comes from a rural area. Dong's mother is pleased that her son can have an education, something she herself never had. Dong's favourite food is pork, sweets and ice cream, but the family also eat other meat, fish and vegetables. When he is older, Dong would like to be a policeman, because he'll be able to 'catch thieves and run around'.

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*Dong, 9, Yunnan, China*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed



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*Alex, 9, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Alex is nine years old. He lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He doesn't go to school but spends his time begging on the city streets. He found that the only way to survive is to beg or steal. He admits that he sometimes steals from old people or from drivers waiting at traffic lights. As drivers lean their arm out the window, Alex comes up and snatches the watch from their wrists. He's addicted to sniffing glue. Most of the time he sleeps outside, on an empty bench or a discarded sofa if he can find one - otherwise on the pavement. Alex is still in touch with his family, and occasionally goes to see them to share a meal.

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*Alex, 9, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

27



*Delanie, 9, New Jersey, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Nine-year-old Delanie lives with her parents and younger brother and sister in a large house in New Jersey, USA. The children all have their own bedrooms. Delanie is very fussy about her appearance and she often takes hours in the evening choosing what to wear the next day. She and her brother travel to school together on the school bus, a journey of about ten minutes, but she does not like to sit with him. She enjoys seeing her friends in class but hates schoolwork. She only has fifteen minutes of homework each night but always leaves it until the last moment. Delanie's hobbies are shopping and dancing. She goes to church regularly and enjoys the happy atmosphere. When she grows up she would like to be a fashion designer and design her own clothes.

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## Photographs by James Mollison

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*Delanie, 9, New Jersey, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Jaime, 9, New York, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Jaime is nine years old. He lives in a top-floor apartment on Fifth Avenue in New York. His parents also own luxury homes in Spain and in the Hamptons on Long Island. He has a younger brother and sister who are twins. Places at Jaime's school are greatly sought after, even though the fees are very high. Jaime had to pass several tests before he was accepted. He is doing very well at his studies and particularly enjoys computer class, spelling and woodwork, but not geometry. He has an hour's homework each night and often finds it hard to fit this in with his other after-school activities. Wednesdays are particularly busy as he has judo and swimming lessons. In his spare time, apart from playing the cello and kickball. Jaime likes to study his finances on the Citibank website. When he grows up, he would like to be a lawyer like his father.

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*Jaime, 9, New York, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Ernesto, 9, Orvieto, Italy*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Ernesto, known as Nesty, is nine years old and lives with his parents and siblings in an old farmhouse in the countryside near Orvieto, Italy. They have six bedrooms and five bathrooms, yet the three children all sleep in one room. This helps to save money on heating bills and is also more convenient for bedtime stories. Bedtime is at eight o'clock. Nesty and his siblings occasionally help with washing dishes and folding the laundry, but mostly their mother does everything for them. Nesty can earn a star for his chart if he finishes his chores successfully. With enough stars, he gets a special treat. He attends the local school with twenty-three other children. His favourite subjects are woodwork, Italian and art. Nesty can speak four languages. He is sometimes teased about his long hair, which his mother brushes for him as he eats breakfast. When he grows up, he would like to be an ice cream seller, an artist or a rock star.

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*Ernesto, 9, Orvieto, Italy*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Bikram, 9, Nepal*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Bikram is a nine year old orphan. He lives with his grandparents, aunt, uncle and two cousins in the mountainous countryside of Nepal. Both his parents were killed during the civil war. Bikram lives in a stone house which is a two-hour trek uphill from the nearest road. The ground floor of the building is a stable for the goats and buffalo. It is also the cooking area. The corn is stored upstairs to protect it from rats. Bikram and the rest of his family sleep together in the corn store. There's no main electricity, but they have a bedroom light powered by a car battery. The family owns a small plot of land on which they grow the food to which sustains them - wheat mash, and lentils and vegetables. They are unable to afford meat or milk. Bikram works hard at school and enjoys general knowledge. He and his friend study together or play ball and fighting games. One day, he would like to be a doctor.

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Photographs by James Mollison

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*Bikram, 9, Nepal*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Tzvika, 9, Beitar Illit, the West Bank*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Tzvika is nine years old and lives in Beitar Illit, an Israeli settlement in the West Bank. It is a gated community of thirty-six thousand Haredi (Orthodox) Jews, who live their lives according to a strict religious code set out in the Jewish holy book, the Talmud, televisions and newspapers are banned from the settlement. The average family has nine children, but Tzvika has just one sister and two brothers, with whom he shares his room. Like all good Haredi boys, Tzvika reveres God and wants to become a rabbi when he is older. He lives in a modern apartment block and is taken by car to school, a two-minute drive away. Religion is the most important subject, followed by Hebrew and math. Sport is banned from the curriculum. Tzvika goes to the library every day and enjoys reading the holy scriptures. All the books in the library are religious books. Tzvika also likes to play religious games on his computer. His favourite food is schnitzel and chips.

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*Tzvika, 9, Beitar Illit, the West Bank*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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Photographs by James Mollison

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*Douha, 10, Hebron, the West Bank*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Douha lives with her parents and 11 siblings in a Palestinian refugee camp in Hebron in the West Bank. She is ten years old and shares a room with all five of her sisters. The family diet consists mostly of green beans, meat, rice, and lentil soup. Douha attends school which is a ten minute walk away. She works hard because she wants to be a Pediatrician when she grows up. Douha's life has been greatly affected by the conflict between Palestine and Israel. Her grandparents fled their village in 1948, when Israel took over their land, and Douha's family has lived in refugee camps ever since. Douha was born in a refugee camp, and there has always been violence around her. Her brother Mohammed killed himself and twenty-three other civilians in a suicide-bomb attack against the Israelis in 1996. Although no one in her family knew what Mohammed was planning, the whole family was punished for it; immediately after the bombing the family home - including all their possessions - was destroyed by the Israeli military. Douha has a poster of Mohammed on her bedroom wall

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*Douha, 10, Hebron, the West Bank*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Juan David, 10, Medellin, Colombia*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Jaun David is ten years old and lives in a shanty town with his parents in Medellin, Colombia. He and his parents are 'internally displaced persons' having fled from their former hometown, where the community is severely affected by violence caused by the drug trade. Jaun David's family now live with poor access to basic services like schools or hospitals. Their main food is Sancoya, a spicy fruit that grows locally. Jaun David's shack was built by his father, it sits on wooden stilts on a steep hill crammed in with other shacks just like it. The prospects of work here are very limited and his father struggles to get casual work as a car repairman. The family would love to move to America. Jaun David is able to go to school. He enjoys playing football and wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

# Where Children Sleep

Photographs by James Mollison

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*Juan David, 10, Medellin, Colombia*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Li, 10, Beijing, China*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Li is ten years old and lives in an apartment block in Beijing, China with her parents. She is an only child - as a result of the Chinese government's 'one child per family' policy, introduced to control population growth. Families with more than one child are usually penalized. Li goes to school nearby, where she likes to learn math, singing, and music. She is a perfectionist and will spend three hours each night completing her homework to the highest standard. She also attends ballet classes twice a week after school. Three times during her school life, she will have to attend a compulsory army summer camp organized by the People's Liberation Army. In preparation for this she has to attend army training. Li doesn't want to be in the army when she grows up, she wants to be a policewoman so that she can protect people.

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*Li, 10, Beijing, China*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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Photographs by James Mollison

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*Joey, 11, Kentucky, USA*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Joey lives in Kentucky, USA, with his parents and older sister. He is eleven years old. He regularly accompanies his father on hunts. He owns two shotguns and a crossbow and made his first kill - a deer - at the age of seven. He is hoping to use his crossbow during the next hunting season as he has become tired of using a gun. He loves the outdoor life and hopes to continue hunting into adulthood. His family always cooks and eats the meat from the animal they have shot. Joey does not agree that an animal should be killed just for sport. When he is not out hunting, Joey attends school and enjoys watching television with his pet bearded dragon lizard, Lily.

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*Joey, 11, Kentucky, USA*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Lamine, 12, Senegal*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Lamine is twelve years old and lives in a village in Senegal, western Africa. He is a pupil at the village Koranic school, where no girls are allowed. He shares a room with several other boys from the school. The beds are very basic and uncomfortable, some supported by bricks for legs. At six o'clock every morning, the boys begin work on the school farm. Depending on the season of the year, they are taught digging, harvesting maize or how to plough the fields using donkeys. In the afternoon, they study the Koran, the holy book from which Islam is derived, learning to recite its verses from wooden tablets. They have the same teacher for all their lessons. Lamine enjoys school but finds the farming lessons hard work and very hot. In his free time, he likes to play football with his friends. When Lamine grows up he would like to be a teacher.

# Where Children Sleep

Photographs by James Mollison

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*Lamine, 12, Senegal*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Prena, 14, Kathmandu, Nepal*  
28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Prena lives in Kathmandu, Nepal. Her room is a tiny, cell-like space at the top of the house where she is employed as a domestic worker. Her diet is mainly rice and vegetables. She is fourteen years old and one of thousands of child domestic workers in the country. Prena carries out household chores such as sweeping, cleaning, cooking and washing. She starts work at five in the morning and finishes at six in the evening. For this, she earns five hundred Nepali rupees per month (about \$6.50). She sends the money back to her parents, who have eight other children to support. Prena visits her family twice a year. She goes to school three times a week - which is the main highlight in her life. She admires her teacher, who has made it his mission to educate children like Prena. She would like to be a doctor when she is older.

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*Prena, 14, Kathmandu, Nepal*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed



## Where Children Sleep

Photographs by James Mollison

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*Nantio, 15, Kenya*

28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Nantio is fifteen years old and a member of the Rendille tribe in Northern Kenya. She has two brothers and two sisters. Her home is a tent-like dome made from cattle hide and plastic, with little room to stand. There is a fire in the middle, which the family sleeps around. Nantio's household chores include looking after the goats, chopping firewood, and fetching water. She went to the village school for a few years but decided not to continue. Nantio is hoping a 'moran' (warrior) will select her for marriage. (She has a boyfriend now, but it's not unusual for a Rendille woman to have several boyfriends before marriage.) First, she will have to undergo circumcision, as is the custom. Nantio's status in life can be seen by the number of necklaces she wears and whether she also wears a white band, indicating that she has a boyfriend or that her menstrual cycles have begun.

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*Nantio, 15, Kenya*

53.5 x 43.3 inches framed

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*Risa, 15, Kyoto, Japan*

28.7 x 23.6 inches framed

Risa is fifteen years old and lives with thirteen other women in a teahouse in Kyoto, Japan. She and five others sleep in a room that is also used as a dining room and tea room. She left her family in Tokyo a year ago after she saw a TV programme about geishas and decided she wanted to become one. Geishas are hostesses who entertain high-paying male guests by performing traditional Japanese arts. Risa is now a 'maiko' - a young girl who has passed the test to train as a geisha - and has been given a new name, Tomoyuki. She will have to train rigorously, with daily lessons in singing, dancing, playing Japanese drums, tea-making and mastering elegant Kyoto elocution. She spends two hours a day practising how to wrap her kimono, arrange her hair and apply make-up. She is the youngest maiko in Japan. Risa has two days' holiday each month and visits her family three times a year. She often gets homesick.

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**Where Children Sleep**  
**Photographs by James Mollison**

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*Risa, 15, Kyoto, Japan*  
53.5 x 43.3 inches framed