



PROJECT MUSE®

## Hopscotch

Elizabeth Oakes

Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, Volume 21, Number 1, Spring 2005, p. 101 (Article)

Published by Indiana University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/jfs.2005.0012>



➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/183433>

# In a Different Voice

## **Hopscotch** *by Elizabeth Oakes*

Throw the rock.  
Don't hit the lines.  
Jump in the squares.  
Pick up the rock.  
Bop on home.

Simple rules.  
Simple sounds.  
Taking turns.  
Being careful.

It is a girls' game,  
this circumscribed world  
of squares with numbers  
and an oval called heaven  
at the top, a space called  
home at the bottom.

We gather on the sidewalk,  
use our chalk—we make this  
game, Beverly, Patsy, Linda, me.

We play.  
Someone reaches heaven  
and hops back home,  
picks up the rock  
while balancing on one foot.

No one thinks of hell.