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Pile of Bodies

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Pile of Bodies

Jason Snart

In my three year old's room you can find
the usual mess of big Lego,
a puzzle, a mix-up of books, a brush,
and clothes that may or may not be clean.

There's a picture from when
we went hiking I carried her most of the way in the backpack.
We got to a muddy stream and I said to myself,
that looks dangerous. She pointed out: "fish!"

In the corner's a tower of blocks,
which is also a robot, because who says
a robot can't be a tower.
And who says a tower can't talk.

Under the bed is a pile of dolls
whose eyes have half rolled back. They are twisted,
a wreckage of arms
and legs. What horrible disaster befell them
that they must now reach out to daylight
as if the few survivors after a hurricane, after
an earthquake, after some savage attack
in a back alley or a stroke of bad luck?

I push them farther under the bed, and back,
away. Away from where my daughter might see them,
might see that pile of bodies and wonder,
what happened?