

Albert Bender
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Broken Doll

Everyone thought she was a doll,
a naked toy in a Bronx alleyway,
common enough
for the kids going to school
and the man sweeping the Grand Concourse
to think nothing for two days
until someone with binoculars saw--
the doll with the shattered head
and broken body
had blood.

Now a day-old child lies
unidentified
under a blanket
as cameras flash,
and police scour the neighborhood
for clues leading
to the inhabitants behind a door
who, when the knock comes, can answer
for hurling their daughter from a window,
or maybe a roof,
into a back alleyway
and onto the front page
of the news.