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Me

Brandon Sparks

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ME BRANDON SPARKS

My mother
decided that with all the fighting I had going on,
someone would need a doctor-
Dr. Ken and Nurse Barbie.
Ken never did do much.
Barbie was always in some type of danger:
kidnapped
dangled from over the ledge of the kitchen counter
spending time under G.I. Joe.

I didn't know anything about sex
other than there was kissing
and you were probably naked.
I figured a lot of that out when mom
got the new Charlie Rich album
and played "Behind Closed Doors"
over and over.

Joe and Barbie did it in front of the couch
in the den,
the couch being a mountain in the woods.

The living room was usually the desert
with the sofa a mountain
and the boomerang coffee table a ledge.
I had zip lines everywhere
from the Green Stamp bookshelf to the end table
and from the piano/
heliport/bad guys' hideout
to the other end table.

My toy room—
that is a converted garage to hold toys
for a child with no siblings in the house—
Had string hanging from the ceiling
so Batman and Robin could swing
from one end of the room to the other as the story dictated.

I would spend hours coming up with a storyline
plotting out movements
and directing the action.
All the figures in their places.