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## Tricycle

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*Gary L. McDowell*

## Tricycle

The boy next door used to flip his tricycle upside down and turn the pedals with his hands. He would hold his sister's doll over the spinning tire. Her hair frayed until it curled black and burnt. One time the hair got caught in the spokes. Its head became wedged between the metal fork and the hub. The doll spun in circles. The friction from the tire made black smudges across her face and her dress ripped to bare her flat plastic chest. In the backyard I'd run my hands over his sister's chest and imagine her flesh burning under the spinning wheel.