

# Tuscaloosa

*by* Tina Barry

A pin in a doll's heart  
then one in its foot.  
Hot vapor  
with its own populace:  
The lady at Stop & Shop  
with the dead eyes and gray perm.  
Your neighbor's pick up truck  
grandpa's house  
with grandpa inside  
and a prom queen  
wearing a fake satin dress  
corsage pinned just so.  
Beloved  
for its years of service  
and unblemished safety record  
a Ferris wheel gently rocks  
its last riders  
then dumps them to the ground.  
People laugh  
at the banality  
of final thoughts.  
Closer to the stars  
a man finds comfort  
recalling the part in his daughter's hair.

