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## In Heritage Station, Huntington, WV

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## In Heritage Station, Huntington, WV

The boxcar child pokes her braided head  
between the metal rails. One hand clutches  
a used doll, caked with wear and love's grime.  
She poses gap-toothed for a Polaroid,  
cameo-like behind the bars. She scampers  
along cobblestones on dirty bare feet.

We stroll past, through the replica village  
and enter the restaurant. A blond in a too-tight skirt  
seats us. Some honey-toned French major spouts  
specials with a southern twang. We order seafood  
fresh from the heart of the Midwest. A redneck  
stumbles in, shouting "God is dead!"

A sigh, a clattering spoon, and unimpressed  
patrons resume their dining.

—*Trish Klei*