

What Is This Brown Cotton-Skinned Ragdoll Crumpled Behind a Lamp?

by

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As my friend explained
how she just couldn't throw it away
how her own dog
put the toy in its mouth
pulled the limp scarved ragdoll
from a basket
rescued it
from a house in East Tennessee,
I felt powerless,
fungible
like I just couldn't throw it away
this history
that turned a blackgirl like me into
a brown-skinned ragdoll
a cotton-skinned dog toy
a brown-skinned body
made for a dog to catch

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