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Place of Residence

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Ismael Pallaes



Place of Residence



First there was the commune in the mountains where I learned to say “snow”; followed by the double-wide with the lawn not even worth mowing; then the ranch-style that saw me through puberty; and the apartment with my high school girlfriend 50 feet away that was really my grandparents’ garage; the new in-laws’ room three states north so they could help with the baby; the house that was mine because the mortgage had my name on it; the minimum-security bed in county; the dorm room with the mini-fridge for six months; the house in the boonies where I once saw my friend’s girlfriend naked; the ritzy place with the light-switch fireplace that cost more than the mortgage on the house I used to own; the two-bedroom with a girl who couldn’t come up with her half of rent – where I finalized the divorce and won custody; back to the ranch-style just to get away; then north again to the spider basement where I proposed to my second wife; the high-ceiling oven held together by mold and wood paneling that saw us married; and the attached townhouse where I wait for snow again.

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