After You’ve Played Grown Up

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After You’ve Played Grown Up

by Scott Johnston

your small boy tears
roll and roll.
you have made us all
remember our small boys,
buried beneath layers
of edified hardness
and hurt.

you peel.
the layers roll off,
and lie on the floor:
bitter chocolate curls
that have aged.

we all pick up
the many brown slivers.