Sandmen

The sandman’s hands are blasted clean,
He holds them out so you can see,
That though his nails are gritty and pared,
His palms are smooth and empty as air.

He smells like the sea, that sand-man of mine,
He lays me in bed, he’s ever so kind.
He touches my eyes, so gently benign,
And I drift off to sleep and dream so sublime.

That sandman blows his dust in my eyes
And laughs as I blink and try not to cry.
He hurts me and pokes me
Inflames me and stokes me
But I won’t make him leave,
No, not I.

My love-affair with sleep,
His promises un-kept,
The sandman is a flighty lover
Who’s left me long bereft.

The sandman is a rarity,
A sea-kissed black disparity.
I want him and love him and miss him so dearly;
He visited once, or maybe just nearly.

My sandman sails a sea of dreams,
And in the night I’m with him.
Our feet percuss the boards below,
And churn the moon to ribbons.

My sandman hands me jelly tarts,
He tells me I’m his girl.
I know that in my heart of hearts
His sand’s become a pearl.

His words alone mean nothing to me,
Less than before, so it seems.
His sand is what I crave all day,
I drink it in my dreams.

I’d eat from his hand, that man made of sand,
If only he wouldn’t stray.
I want what he offers, I’d empty my coffers,
If only my sand-man would stay.

My pulse is quick, that sand through the glass,
My thoughts are slick, my eyelids rasp,
I’m coming off a craving when the desperation hits,
I turn my head to kiss the sand right off that sand-man’s lips.
I sleep beneath the surface of my salty sea of tears;
I shut my eyes to block out all the faces of my fears;
The sandman may be calling me,
But I have hands over my ears.

The sea-scented hands of my sand-colored man
Cover my eyes and offer respite.
I told him to leave me alone on that day,
And he’s heeded my words every night.

A poem at my bedside
Makes him pause before he leaves.
He looks at it and shakes
Like little aspen leaves on trees.
He balls it up like that would help
Just before he goes;
But he doesn’t know I saw him take it
Before my eyes could close.