

Hard Candy

by Teri Coyne

Tina pulls a handful of candies
from her corduroy purse
A butterscotch
from Sunday's visit to Nana's
A peppermint
from the diner where she gave her father the news
A root beer barrel
from the doctor who made her count backwards
And lemonheads
from the drive-in where Uncle Nate showed her what grown-ups do
Sweet or sour
she thinks as she crosses her legs
and waits for the feeling to come back.