

Where Have All the Children Gone

Joseph Kerschbaum

The creaking silence of age,
echoes through the streets,
sounds like old wooden floors
under heavy feet. All of the children once
running around
have evacuated or maybe
they've just disappeared. Where have all the children gone? Just yesterday they were
tying ribbons in
trees and swinging from the branches. They were leaping over
hot coals and swooning
at anything.
Where have all the children gone? Those of us who remain
wander around like
abandoned children in
shopping malls. Where have all the children gone? Maybe this is just a dream
maybe they are sleeping in rooms filled
with metal shelves. If we put our ears to those shelves
they would tell us stories of how they
were emptied
emptied by the fingers of fathers. Emptied into the flesh of
their sons and daughters. Where have all the children gone?
We hope they're just hiding
we hope they're playing a game.
but we know this is really happening. Where have all the children gone?
Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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