

Can You Let Your Hair Down?

by Caroline Lu

Can you let your hair down?
Let it flounce back to its original, uneven curls?

Clumsy in my new, shiny
“Big girl” shoes
I tentatively made my way
Over to the spot
Where you sat on that
Friendly, rainbow rug

Your hair was done so carefully
Yet I could tell
That it would become
A wavy, thick mane
The second you untied
That pretty, pink elastic.
I liked that.

As you carefully constructed
A leaning tower of colorful,
Wooden blocks, I
Nervously sat down
Next to you on the
Floor of that excited room

I tugged at the braids
My grandmother
Had weaved out of my
Thin, straight hair, and
In a shy voice, asked,
“Can I-can I play too?”
Your answering grin was
Reassuring

I soon got to see
The wavy, beautiful way
Your hair hung when you
Let it out of that confining
Elastic hair band
How I longed for hair
Just like yours
So different from my

Boring, straight locks

I've since cut my hair
In so many ways
Hoping for something as
Magnificent
And regal
As the beautiful crown
Of wavy curls you would wear

But you've gone now
And straightened your hair and
I wonder
Where the girl I used to know
Has gone
I wonder
Where she's gone
But I know

Still, my question remains
Unanswered
And its demeanor
Unparalleled:

Can you let your hair down?