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Not Set in Stone

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Act I

In which the protagonist realises that things like love in this place are kept by a biscuit tin and the blunted mouth of the valley watches but does not forget.

Act II

In which all the unvoiced kisses follow the protagonist into the valley. She loses her song just long enough to give way. Her days repeat, undigested.

Act III

In which trailing rays across sandstone cuckold the dark.

Act IV

In which there is space for petals. The protagonist wonders how she ever forgot. She stops running, begins a study of scree. She reveals her moon skin to the hills, tips back her sighs and looks for the biscuit tin.

—Sarah Jane Nuttall

Sarah Jane Nuttall is a Creative Writing PhD student researching autism diagnosis in women. She is writing a novel that she hopes will help women to recognize their autistic traits. She is: autistic, ginger, a bird-watcher, a traveler on old trains, a smeller of pages, a survivor in an auditory war zone, a non-electrical resistor, a lifelong learner and an inveterate repeater. She has an MA (distinction) in Creative Writing and has been published in *Poetry*, *Scotland*, *Dreich*, *Keep Yer Heid*, *Another North*, *Feral* and *Ink Sweat & Tears*.