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The wicker baby

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The wicker baby

Abstract

A woman is told to collect rocks and wood for the hearth. She walks across a field beside a cliff where she finds a pile of tiny stones. By and by, one begins to move. She picks it up and it cracks open, dousing her hands.....

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SIX POEMS

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TARA GOEDJEN

The Wicker Baby

A woman is told to collect rocks and wood for the hearth. She walks across a field beside a cliff where she finds a pile of tiny stones. By and by, one begins to move. She picks it up and it cracks open, dousing her hands in water. She tosses the slippery halves into the grass and looks for something more suitable. By and by, she comes

across a larger rock under a tree. She heaves the heavy rock onto her shoulders. The dead branches she plucks from the tree, then ties the bundle to her waist. On her way back, she stumbles over a small basket in the middle of the field. *Oh!* A child is inside the basket. It begins to cry. The basket is wicker and compatible. The woman places them both in her pocket, carrying them to the hearth.

SALLY EVANS is a poet and PhD candidate at the University of Wollongong. Her poetry has previously been published in *Islet*, *TIDE* and *One Horse Town*.

She blogs at www.tallandignorantservants.tumblr.com

TARA GOEDJEN's fiction has appeared in North American journals such as *AGNI*, *BOMB*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Quarterly West* and *New England Review*, and most recently in *Fairy Tale Review* and *Meanjin*. She is a candidate in the Doctorate of Creative Arts program at the University of Wollongong, where she is at work on a novel about ghosts.

The Fish Baby first appeared in *Denver Quarterly*; *The Dirt Baby* first appeared in *Sentence*.



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