

'I Took Your Name'

Kate Swan

.....for a while it sits like
a pebble in my hand
unfamiliar but a comfort to hold
as the world around me
spins like a carousel

I think it changes me moves me
to a place where others look at me
and say she belongs she conforms
fits in with the rest of us
so it makes them comfortable
easy in my company

With time it sidles into shape
as a whole name I recognise
without a twinge of loss
a drift from the past -
when we give it to our child
I take possession

Hand it over easily to doctors
teachers girls in shops as if
it had always been mine
I have grown to fit the shape of it
slid into the hierarchy of women
who carried the name before

Our daughter keeps this name
passes it to her girls