Shaulamhu

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Shaulamhu

Danette Beavers

Little Washō girl

Shaulamhu! Naughty
little girl

Shau-lam-hu

A breathing word that inhales hope
and exhales despair
for a girl who cries like the western winds
that keen through Sierra Nevada
and shrill through cracks in the walls
of galash dungal, her house.

1 Danette Beavers is a member of the Washo Tribe of Nevada and California. She currently resides in Santiago, Chile with her Chilean husband and two children. She has been writing fiction for three years and is currently trying her hand at song writing. She has published in Perspectives, an anthology by the Santiago Writers, whom she joined when she first began her writing career.
When she pays me a visit,
stamping a fit of temper and shouting her hate of
absolutely everything,
I mostly ignore her,
the brat!

But sometimes compassion pinches
me on the arm.

I smooth her crooked black bangs,
clean her face with a warm moist towel
and give her some hot tea
with biscuits.

Funny girl: she’s very fond of hot tea
and biscuits.

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1 The Washo Tribe is located in western Nevada and California