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I Can See Clearly Now

Sara Anne Hook

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I Can See Clearly Now*

Sara Anne Hook

A noisy room filled with people and cats. A cage with a small, misty-gray cat with white face and paws. Ten years old. A stray, transferred from another shelter. Surgery to remove her right eye – now a sunken socket covered by fur. Fearful. Despondent. Months of disappointment, never chosen. Moves as far back as possible in her small enclosure when I reach for her. Sits on my lap, then stands tall, reaches around my neck, clinging, head cradled under my chin. Purring and croaking in what will become our special language. Despite all the younger, more beautiful cats, she is the one I want. Home. Safe. Free. Looking at me through her one lens of love.

What would it be like
to see the world more clearly?
Just cover one eye.

*From the title of a song by Jimmy Cliff.