IN THE LOOKING GLASS

My face is the landscape of snow where my children drag their red sleds, their new black mouths shrieking with joy. There is a rustling of tall pines. Snow boots puncture the hard snow. The body that is old now, the body that picks at its grey hair, I am this body. There is no song like your fingertips, he said, so I prayed with the women that beauty would not ransom me to time. But here I doze now, nodding among my creams and astringents, picking at the scalp, searching for the grey hair. Each day a new one and I pluck it out. In my mind the sleds have turned for home. I follow the path of their rusted runners into the woods.

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