



# Threed, This Road Not Damascus

Tamara J. Madison



EAT Poems # 30

# Tracks

1.

**Wombing: Three-Breasted Woman Shares Her Birth Story 01:53**

2.

**Rebuttal: Three-Breasted Woman Confronts King James I 01:23**

3.

**Beatitudes: Three-Breasted Woman's Sermon on the Mount 03:06**

4.

**Prophecy: Maternal Lineage 2 01:40**

5.

**Poet's Arrival 01:05**

6.

**Manifesto: The Ten Commandments 03:33**

7.

**Poet's Consummation 01:04**

8.

**Poet Conjures: Post-Mortem 01:41**

9.

**Catechism: Three-Breasted Woman Teaches 00:49**

10.

**Poet's Resurrection 01:36**

11.

**Divination 01:23**

12.

**Psalms: In Praise of Three-Breasted Woman 03:35**



## About the Poet

Tamara J. Madison is a poet, writer, and editor. Her work has been published and recorded in various journals, magazines, anthologies, podcasts, and exhibits including *World Literature Today*, *Poetry International*, *Extract*, *Web del Sol Review of Books*, *Tidal Basin Review*, and *Mom Egg Review*. Her work has also been published in the anthologies, *SisterFire* (HarperCollins), *Temba Tupu* (RedSea Press), and *Check the Rhyme* (LitNoire Press).

Her most recent poetry collection *Threed, This Road Not Damascus* is published by Trio House Press and was short-listed under the title, *Breast Poems*, in the 2015 Willow Books Literature Award. *Threed, ...* has been reviewed in *Poetry International*, *Cider Press Review*, *Empty Mirror Review*, and *Cordella Magazine*. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize (2012 and 2022) and for Best of the Net (2019). She is also the author of *Collard County* (short stories), *Kentucky Curdled* (poetry and essay), and *Sistuh's Sermon on the Mount* (poetry chapbook).

Tamara is the creator and host of *BREAKDOWN: The Poet & The Poems*, a conversation series on YouTube to spread awareness of poets and their poetry as inspiration and motivation for everyday life. She has also shared her poetry on the TEDx platform.

Tamara has performed and recorded her work for stage, television, and studio and facilitates creative writing workshops. She is a MFA graduate of New England College and an Anaphora Arts Fellow. She currently lives and writes in Florida and teaches writing courses. For more information, visit [www.tamarajmadison.com](http://www.tamarajmadison.com).

## ABOUT THE POEMS

All of the poems on this audio chapbook, except “Divination” are from *THREED, THIS ROAD NOT DAMASCUS* (Trio House Press, 2019).

“Divination was previously published in *Aunt Chloe, A Journal of Artful Candor*, 2022).



Threed, which takes its name from The Three Breasted Woman and serves as muse for the poet Tamara J. Madison, functions through multiplicity of voice, drawing on the innate strength Black women have long had to exhibit/endure, often in silence within patriarchal structures. Madison commits to the dangerous but beautiful task of poeting, which is often an insurrection against the dominate narrative for the sake of a more inclusive narrative. These poems ring with a level of craft and precision that creates an inner and outer lyric but are also deft in execution and redefinition regarding the role of the Black woman. In reading *Threed*, it is my hope that you, Dear Reader, will absorb these poems with great care and be consumed by the electricity of language, enlightened into a new understanding of Black womanhood.

—Randall Horton

I love the large of the all-embracing voice in Tamara Madison's work, its re-making of history, its daring, convincing belief in the spell of language that transforms, that enchants us into just beings.

I love the myth-making, and the imaginative sweep of this work.

I so love Tamara Madison's relentless pursuit of truth. How she shows us the possibility of honorable witness.

How important it is, that possibility. Especially in our dishonorable time.

I love the music most of all, its litany, its gorgeous unfolding. This is a remarkable debut.

-- Ilya Kaminsky, author of *Deaf Republic* and *Dancing In Odessa*

### **NOTE FROM THE POET**

Many thanks to Trio House Press and my editors, Tayve Neese and Sara Lefsyk.

### **CREDITS**

**Editor and Producer, Mark Ari**

**Assistant Editor, Natasha Kane**

**Cover design by Chase.**

**Cover photograph: "Photography by Amanda C. Diaz Kissimmee, Florida"**