

ANDREA THOMPSON

Revival

Driven by persistent Pagan roots
burrowing below both
Celtic and African streams
my praise needs to dig deep —
bring the scriptures
down to earth.

As a girl, instead of church
or formal spiritual instruction
I was given free run —
*Your people are Christian
but when you're old enough
you can follow any tradition.*

So I tried them all on
Oooooooooooooooooooooo...
BuddhismJudaismIslamHinduismmmmm...
but never could find a single tribe
to which I felt I belonged.

Instead, dug deep beneath
to the source of the stream
that feeds the local watering hole
with universal energy.

Oya becomes kali
Venus, Aphrodite
Inanna becomes Persephone
Isis becomes Mary.

An eclectic array of deities
simmering like spices
in the cauldron of my psyche.

During the summer
of the smash-hit romantic comedy
I keep finding myself
repeating the words of the title

though never did see the movie.
There's something about Mary.

There's something about Mary when she finds me
in the most unsuspecting places —

outside churches, yes of course
but also down the street
in front of the Portuguese lady's house
you know the one who owns the corner store?

There's something about the way she stops me
as I walk past a hospital named after her husband
sacred gardener saint — who tended her devotion.

Something in the way I am called
into her court-yard full of hopeful offerings
to stand perplexed before the plexi-glass
of her concrete chapel
mingling with lingering blessings and prayers
still dangling mid-air...

There's something about Mary
when she finds me
in the most unsuspecting places.

Amazing, the way I am wakened
when I tune in to her graces.

Quintessential female artist —
Western spiritual delegate —
Became vessel without protest —

Maternal anima incarnate.

Beneath blue veil and bared palms
a pantheon of Goddesses.

Writer and spoken-word artist Andrea Thompson has performed her work at venues across North America and overseas for the past twenty years. She is the co-editor of the anthology Other Tongues: Mixed Race Women Speak Out, author of the poetry collection Eating the Seed, and creator of the Urban Muisic Award nominated CD, One. Andrea is a graduate of the University of Guelph's MFA Creative Writing program, and currently teaches spoken word through the Ontario College of Art and Design's Continuing Studies department. Her first novel, Over Our Heads, is forthcoming in 2014 with Inanna Publications.