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Poems

Alicia Jo Rabins

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Poems

Alicia Jo Rabins

DEAR LORD

I'm embarrassed by my love for You and by the ugly cries that escape me at night. Worry birds circling overhead, looking for You. Summer's almost over, but the tree's single bud has not opened. I'm hung backwards over a railing. Your upside-down city winks in the distance. Each morning, a new brown snarl of hair & animal teeth on the pillow, waiting to be untangled. Summer's almost over, but the tree's single bud has not opened. I put it in a box with the stones we found on the beach. Won't You come back to me and make these mysteries holy again.

BOOK OF HOURS

O Lord, the praise on my tongue has turned to fear. I used to think everything I needed lay just beneath someone's clothes. Now we lie beside each other each with our songs of alarm and worry. Can't the scientists make a vaccination
for this kind of loneliness.
Can't the monks
teach us
to build a teak sailboat
out of all this broken wood.
Can't the street vendor
sell us back
the salty hot pretzel
of love.

Alicia Jo Rabins, Brooklyn-based poet, performer and composer, received her MFA from Warren Wilson. Her poems have appeared in Ploughshares, 6 x 6, Boston Review, Broken Land: Poems of Brooklyn (NYU Press) and Horse Poems (Knopf). As a musician she tours internationally; her original art-pop song cycle about Biblical women, Girls in Trouble, was released in October 2009 and she is the violinist in Golem, NYC’s punk-klezmer band. She also holds a Masters in Jewish Women's Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary and tutors bar and bat mitzvah students online.

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