

COAL HILL REVIEW



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AT THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA

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by Tammy Robacker

On a good day, her invitation seemed to arrive
for me with edges threaded in gilded floss. Sealed up
elegantly with our family crest (I am waxing dramatic

here on rose hips and fragrant hibiscus leaves).
She offered me the beautiful, fruited ceremony
of mothering at times. Well-mannered in pose.

Queenly in carriage. Smiling with pearl inlay.
Passing her love around like crudités, she fancied
me, on occasions. When I belonged there

at high tea, an utter sweetness steeped
those moments. My mother's garden table
set with smiles, white linen, a sugar bowl, and bees.



Tammy Robacker graduated from the Rainier Writing Workshop MFA program in Creative Writing, Poetry at Pacific Lutheran University (2016). She won the 2015 Keystone Chapbook Prize for her manuscript, 'R'. Her second poetry book, *Villain Songs*, was published at ELJ Editions in Winter 2017. Tammy published her first collection of poetry, *The Vicissitudes*, in 2009

(Pearle Publications) with a generous TAIP grant award. Tammy's poetry has appeared in or is forthcoming in *Harpur Palate*, *FRiGG*, *concis*, *Tinderbox*, *Alyss*, *Menacing Hedge*, *Chiron Review*, *Duende*, *So to Speak*, *Crab Creek Review*, *WomenArts*, and many more. Tammy was born in Germany, raised in Pennsylvania, and currently lives in Oregon. Visit the poet: tammyrobacker.com

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