

# HARTS

# & Minds



‘Voodoo’,  
‘Valhalla’  
‘Freshly Fallen’

Elizabeth O’Connell-Thompson

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**Review of Elizabeth O'Connell Thompson's poetry:**

*"I love the richness of the imagery conjured clearly but yet succinctly; these poems manage to reveal a great deal in a few carefully-honed lines. There is no redundant phrasing; everything more than pays its way. Death looms in each – past, present and anticipated demise."*  
~ Myfanwy Fox

**Three poems by Elizabeth O'Connell Thompson**

Voodoo  
*for Miss Donna*

I can't imagine you kept the shrunken head  
in a bag the whole drive up from New Orleans.  
All humid with hibiscus and bourbon,  
it needed to breathe.

Mouth stitched shut,  
it pleaded for a little tenderness,  
so I brought it as close as I could to home.

In the spice cabinet,  
it slept with the cinnamon and rosemary,  
flavoring everything we ate with such  
swampboat magic  
that we forgot all about bayou curses.

Every night, though,  
I'd kiss its wrinkled brow  
and sprinkle brickdust at my door.

## Valhalla

Your boat-burning was the most beautiful  
I had ever seen.  
When we laid you down to rest  
you looked so peaceful that we felt guilty  
for disturbing you.  
We kissed you goodbye,  
set the fire,  
and pushed the boat away.  
The only thing to break the spell  
was you screaming.

## Freshly Fallen

The wolf born among the cardamine doesn't know  
that his mother gave him her fur  
so he could dye it rusty in winter.  
While you count cardinals on the branches,  
he is waiting in the bushes  
to bring her back your heart.

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## Biography

Elizabeth O'Connell-Thompson was born on the Passaic, raised on the Navesink, and crossed the Atlantic to study words at Trinity College Dublin. A Dodge Foundation Poet and a Creativist for WiseLit, her work has been featured in *Icarus*, *Critics & Writers*, and *Ghost Journal*, among others. When she is not pestering her loved ones and apologizing with the few baked goods she knows how to make, she is preparing to try her writing hand at being nearly landlocked in a move west. To send feedback, or well wishes, contact her at [EOTwrites.com](http://EOTwrites.com).