

Gabby Gilliam – Three Poems

I Understand Crossroads

are like spiderwebs
what ifs will cling to you
if you don't bury them
rip them from your skin
and cast them aside
before they entangle you
viscous strands constricting
before dust even settles on your hem.

I remember

the challenge of waiting to push
clenched jaw and taut muscles

fluid slick thighs and stitches
that wouldn't be felt until later

the fresh heartbeat against my bare skin
the fragile weight that made me whole

Hand Me Down

I wanted a new jacket
with brassy doorknob buttons

navy peacoat tailored to keep
chill out without sacrificing chic.

The second-hand coat one size too big
sleeves rolled up until I grow into them

provides camouflage among the Fall trees
the faded orange buffeted by the wind

like I'm just another errant leaf.

Gabby Gilliam lives in the DC metro area. Her poetry has most recently appeared in *Tofu Ink Arts Press*, *Tempered Runes Press*, *Cauldron Anthology*, *Instant Noodles*, and two anthologies from Mythos Poets Society. You can find her online at gabbygilliam.squarespace.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GabbyGilliamAuthor/.