HOUSES OF THE HOLY
LED ZEPPELIN ALBUM COVER

In this temple of bare bottoms and breast buds,
my ears follow the steps of the guitar,
each chord progression a gospel raising
the hair on my arms. Is this what I am supposed
to feel in church? But it's Saturday and music
is exploding from the speakers in the living
room. *These white boys can rock* Daddy says
strumming baby sister's belly, her giddy laughter
an improvised solo. Spinning and twirling in this carpeted
pulpit, the whites of my father's eyes on fire,
sweat pouring down his face, reverb shaking the house
I am spinning too, blessed by rock and roll.

TERI ELLEN CROSS DAVIS

Teri Ellen Cross Davis is the author of *a more perfect Union*, awarded the 2019 *Journal*/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize and *Haint*, awarded the 2017 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. She is the winner of the Poetry Society of America's 2020 Robert H. Winner Memorial Award. She has received fellowships and scholarships to Cave Canem, the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Hedgebrook, Community of Writers Poetry Workshop, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Hermitage Artist Retreat, and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She is the Poetry Coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C.

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