My Opera

takes place in a dive bar, it's all drunken recitative,
okay maybe an aria sung by a feral kitten, one
by a skittish donkey, maybe one without words
just the sounds of lovemaking, moans, laughter, wailing,
it ends with a dramatic flourish like smashing a glass
in the fireplace, I always wanted to do that
& watch the flames flare up. It's not a long opera,
maybe fourscore years give or take, everyone
gets their own glass & pours out whatever's in it
onto the floor. The staging is difficult. Exploding stars
are involved, high-redshift galaxies, interior chambers,
a little country blues, a little jazz guitar, a jam jar containing
a tiny ocean & a tinier rowboat rocking gently in the swells
that I am steering toward you in the dark.

Kim Addonizio

Kim Addonizio's is the author of nine poetry collections, two novels, two story collections, and two books on writing poetry, *The Poet's Companion* (with Dorianne Laux) and *Ordinary Genius*. She has received fellowships from the NEA and Guggenheim Foundation, Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and the essay, and her work has been widely translated and anthologized. *Tell Me* was a National Book Award Finalist in poetry. Her latest poetry collection is *Exit Opera*, from W.W. Norton. She teaches poetry workshops on Zoom from Oakland, CA and is online at https://www.kimaddonizio.com

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