She'll do anything for food,

the dog walker tells me.
She speaks quietly, not wanting
to insult her heavy-boned, one blue,
one brown-eyed beast tugging
at her leash. *We did a doggie*
ancestor test, she confides, *discovered*
she's part wolf, part miniature poodle.
Must be the poodle part makes her so
ravenous; small creatures are ruthless
feeders. Think of enraptured rats
gnawing their way through orange trees,
babies nursing -- sucking so fiercely
they can burst a nipple. Think of your
heart, size of a throbbing fist, the part
of you that will do anything for love.

Kim Dower

Kim Dower is an award-winning, bestselling poet of six collections from Red Hen Press including ***What She Wants: Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair Euphoria***, described by the *Washington Post* as raw, wry, witty, sultry and thoughtful. ***I Wore This Dress Today for You, Mom*** -- an Eric Hoffer Book Award Finalist, was called a "fantastic collection" by *The Washington Post*, and ***Sunbathing on Tyrone Power's Grave***, won the 2020 Independent Publishers Book Award Gold Medal for Poetry. Kim was City Poet Laureate of West Hollywood from October 2016 to October 2018. Her work has been featured in numerous literary journals including *Barrow Street, Plume, Ploughshares, The James Dickey Review, Rattle Magazine*, as well as several anthologies. Born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Kim lives with her family in West Hollywood, CA. where she teaches poetry workshops for the West Hollywood Library.

Cobalt Poets Series # 676 ~ September 23, 2025 ~ from *What She Wants: Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair, Euphoria*, Published by Red Hen Press, January 2016