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Red Hen Press

MARKETING CONTACT: Tobi Harper, Marketing Director, marketing@redhen.org
P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114 / (626) 356-4760 / fax: (626) 356-9974 / redhen.org

Sunbathing on Tyrone Power's Grave

POETRY BY
Kim Dower

Death of a loved one
flings open a sunlit room
Grief walks us inside

In Kim Dower's fourth collection, *Sunbathing on Tyrone Power's Grave*, death has never felt so alive! Alluring titles to haunting last lines, the poems in Dower's fourth collection soothe, terrify and always surprise, revealing the extraordinary within the ordinary. Acclaimed for combining the accessible and profound, humor and heartache, Dower's poetry continues to be quirky, dark, sexy, disarmingly candid and moving, and here she explores the landscape of death and its intersections with love, longing, obsession, sadness, joy and beauty. Wise and soaring, these poems bravely imagine another life beyond the one we all know where even the angels surrounding the graves are wearing bikinis, smoking Kool Lights.

PRAISE FOR *SUNBATHING ON TYRONE POWER'S GRAVE*

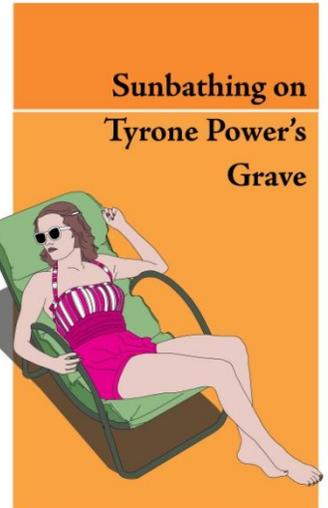
"By turns exuberant, sexy and sobering, Kim Dower's remarkable poems are known for their extraordinary range. This fourth collection finds her at the top of her game. Attuned to the oddness of the quotidian and grounding the metaphysical in the sharp sensations of daily life, the poems in *Tyrone Power's Grave* invite us to live as fully and generously as the poet herself." —**Chris Kraus**, bestselling author of *I Love Dick* and *After Kathy Acker*

"Kim Dower's poems speak not of the highs and lows, but about the grey space between tragedy and tenderness, memory and loss, fragility and perseverance—that space where the soul and the truest self live." —**Richard Blanco**, Presidential Inaugural Poet

"Kim Dower's poetry has a way of transforming everyday life into something luminous and unexpected. Simultaneously accessible and complex, whimsical and heartbreaking, Dower's poetry shines with subtle irony and playful imagination, empathetic and relatable, as well as full of wisdom."—**Culture Trip**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Dower, originally from New York City, received a BFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College, where she also taught creative writing. She has published three collections of poetry, all from Red Hen Press: *Air Kissing on Mars* (2010), which was on the Poetry Foundation's Contemporary Best Sellers list and described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "sensual and evocative...seamlessly combining humor and heartache"; *Slice of Moon* (2013), called "unexpected and sublime" by *O* magazine; and *Last Train to the Missing Planet* (2016). Kim was City Poet Laureate of West Hollywood, California from October 2016 to October 2018.



Kim Dower

PUB DATE: April 1, 2019
ISBN: 978-1-59709-621-8
SIZE: 6in x 9in
FORMAT: Tradepaper
EXTENT: 104pp
PRICE: \$16.95

MARKETING CONTACT
Tobi Harper
Marketing Director, Red Hen Press
626.406.1209
marketing@redhen.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Monica Fernandez
Media Manager
626.406.1206
media@redhen.org

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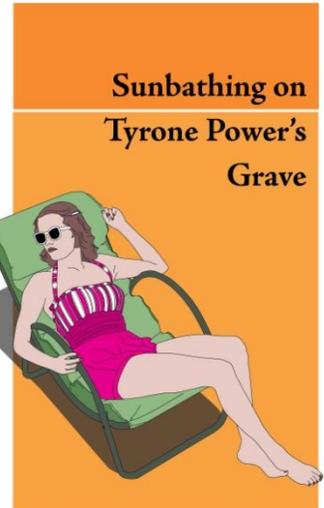
FROM SUNBATHING ON TYRONE POWER'S GRAVE

He said I wrote about death,

and I didn't mean to, this was not my intent. I meant to say how I loved the birds, how watching them lift off the branches, hearing their song helps me get through the gray morning. When I wrote about how they crash into the small dark places that only birds can fit through, layers of night sky, pipes through drains, how I've seen them splayed across gutters, piles of feathers stuck together by dried blood, how once my car ran over a sparrow, though I swerved, the road was narrow, the bird not quick enough, dragged it under my tire as I drove to forget, bird disappearing part by part, beak, slender feet, fretful, hot, I did not mean to write about death, but rather how when something dies we remember who we love, and we die a little too, we who are still breathing, we who still have the energy to survive.

Unruly Aura

The cashier at the health food store tells me I have a beautiful aura. Wait, I tell her, if you want to see a really beautiful aura, wait until I've taken my Renew Life, Ultimate Flora, Probiotic. After that my aura will knock your socks off. She smiles at me and rings me up. My money has a beautiful aura, too. My dollar bills float out of my pink wallet. The man behind me swells from the heat I generate. Each step I take brings me closer to God, the final, fabulous aura. Take my hand, I tell her, squeeze my aura — it's hungry, and looking for someone to devour.



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