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# *What She Wants*

POETRY BY

Kim Dower

*What She Wants: Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair, Euphoria* is a powerful tribute to the intensity of obsessive love, told through the trademark humor and heartbreak of bestselling poet Kim Dower

Following the commercial and literary success of her bestselling poetry collection, *I Wore This Dress Today for You, Mom: Poems on Motherhood*, Kim Dower delivers *What She Wants: Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair, Euphoria*—turning her keen eye, vibrant imagination, trademark insight, and humor to the intensity of obsessive love. These steamy and provocative poems, combining humor and heartache, run through the four phases of Limerence, the state of being infatuated or obsessed with another person: Infatuation, Crystallization, Deterioration, and Ecstatic Release. From the opening poem, “She’ll do anything for food,” to the sexy title poem, “What She Wants,” the painfully funny, “His Other Girlfriend,” to the longing in “Visiting Baudelaire,” and the sad, sweet final poem, “Fish’s Lament,” Kim Dower captures the essence of what it means to be stuck on someone—even on a squirrel! Her eclectic, growing readership will savor these poems that can be read in one sitting, like a story with an arc, or separately, each one recalling the moment of falling in or out of love, the moment our hearts skipped a beat.

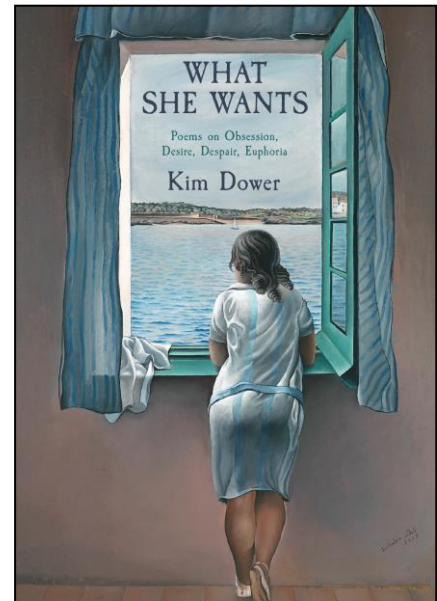
## ADVANCE PRAISE

"Psychologically astute and playfully resolute at evoking the irrevocable desire for love, attraction, seduction, and yes, companionship, *What She Wants* belongs on every bookshelf: not just for poetry lovers. But the poetry is there, singing its echoing delight through the lines, like desire itself, and enticing, resolving, and picturing the myriad ways we are compelled by desire and all its fruits."

—John Evans, Diesel bookstore

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Dower, born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, is the former City Poet Laureate for West Hollywood, California. Author of five highly acclaimed collections of poetry, including the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller and 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award finalist, *I Wore This Dress Today for You, Mom* ("Fantastic collection"—*Washington Post*; "Impressively insightful, thought-provoking, and truly memorable"—*Midwest Book Review*); the 2020 Gold IPPY Awards winner, *Sunbathing on Tyrone Power's Grave; Air Kissing on Mars* ("sensual and evocative . . . seamlessly combining humor and heartache"—*Los Angeles Times*); and *Slice of Moon* ("unexpected and sublime"—*O magazine*). Dower's poems have been featured on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac* and Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry*, as well as in many anthologies and journals, including *Ploughshares*, *James Dickey Review*, *Plume*, and *Barrow Street*. She teaches poetry workshops for Antioch University, UCLA Extension, and the West Hollywood Library. Kim lives with her family in West Hollywood, California. [www.kimdowerpoetry.com](http://www.kimdowerpoetry.com).



**PUB DATE:** January 14, 2025

**ISBN:** 978-1-63628-263-3

**SIZE:** 5.83 in x 8.27 in

**FORMAT:** Casebound

**EXTENT:** 136pp

**PRICE:** \$19.95

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## **REDHEN PRESS**

### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

Publishers Group West

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**MORE PRAISE FOR *WHAT SHE WANTS***

“Kim Dower captures the timeless art of storytelling through verse with raw and unfiltered emotions, lyrical language, and vivid imagery. With every turn of the page, readers will find themselves drawn deeper into a world where words hold the power to inspire, delight, and transform.”

—**Julie Slavinsky**, Director of Events, Warwick’s bookstore

"From whispered secrets to consuming obsessions, these poems unveil the complexities of love, longing, and the urgency that prods us to pursue the objects of one's desire."

—**Luisa Smith**, Buying Director, Book Passage bookstore

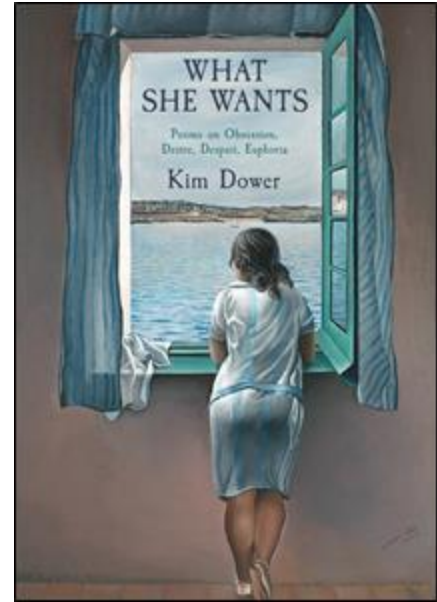
“Desires, both feral and mundane, are slung across these pages in a crescendo of sexual longing and urgent vitality. There's something gleeful in the undercurrent of darkness that runs through these verses.”

—**Amanda Youngman**, Store Manager, Barnes & Noble at The Grove

**FROM *WHAT SHE WANTS***

**Visiting Baudelaire**

Walking miles through ancient  
air, skinny streets, my head filled  
with his clouds like a tick fills itself  
with blood. I butter my baguette,  
length of a baton, as I stroll to his grave.  
Everyone has given me pre-trip  
tourist tips: where to go, what to see,  
every friend who’s been seduced by Paris,  
as if we’re all in love with the same woman,  
arguing over what’s her best part,  
how long did she invite us to stay  
deep inside. I’m here for a week,  
my goal to visit Baudelaire’s grave  
and finally I’ve arrived but with nothing  
to give except an unfinished poem  
which I place beside the dried  
yellow roses, discolored pack of Gauloises,  
another visitor’s engraved leather notebook.  
There’s no place for me to sit and talk with him.  
The sun burns a hole through his magnificent  
clouds, even though he’s dead I’m too shy  
to tell him how I feel.



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