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# A Dog's Life

Douglas Nordfors

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## Three Poems · *Douglas Nordfors*

### A DOG'S LIFE

I'm in love with the life of a dog.  
I want to sleep, wake up, sleep  
all day, every day. I want to be  
the withheld, helpless breath.  
If it means running free over the sidewalk  
I want a triangle of glass in my paw.  
I want to ignore my wound, my birth,  
let my blood flow from one vein  
to another. I want to gallop  
toward a stranger and I want the stranger  
to put his hand, smelling of fear,  
on my head and laugh. I want  
to piss on a gravestone, define  
happiness as hard rain I, without hope,  
can bear. I want the wind, the drifting  
clouds, even the motionless ground  
to make promises and say nothing  
about whether they will keep them.  
Crying out like a small child when left  
alone in the human world, an empty room,  
I don't want heaven. I want to be  
interested in all food, chew the rotten  
meat, suck up its juice until it's  
better than hunger, better than a clear  
stream. Whoever comes to me, I want  
to always stay with them, look through  
them with soulless eyes, put my head  
gently on their knee so as not to hurt them.  
I want to love, I who can't love.