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POETRY | FALL 2023

## Swedish Death Cleaning

By Ingrid Andersson

My mother calls before 8 a.m.:

*Be sure to take out my gold fillings  
when I die, they're worth something.*

*Promise me you'll love my cat?*

*All night she pushes her precious little face  
up to mine. Take the computer*

*any time—they just keep changing it.*

I no longer mind, and promise all  
she ever asks, though her little cat

is pushing up perennials in the back,  
where weedy tangles overtake  
her garden flowers.

*You are my gold, I say, every day,  
your precious self is worth  
more than anything—and a*

bright laugh escapes her lips  
like the opening of a bud or  
skip of a treasured child.

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**Ingrid Andersson is a writer whose debut collection, *Jordemoder: Poems of a Midwife (Holy Cow! Press, 2022)* was shortlisted as best book of poetry for 2023 by the Wisconsin Library Association and won second place in the Edna Meudt book award. Andersson's poems have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes and Best of the Net, selected as poem-of-the-month (Mom Egg Review) and for an Editor's Choice award (Eastern Iowa Review). Her work has appeared in *About Place Journal*, *ArsMedica*, *Intima*, *Literary Mama*, *Midwest Review*, *Midwifery Today*, *Plant-Human Quarterly*, *Wisconsin People & Ideas* and elsewhere. Andersson has practiced as a home birth nurse midwife and healthcare activist in Madison, Wisconsin for more than 20 years. Learn more about her work on [ingridandersson.info/](http://ingridandersson.info/)**

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