# Minimum wage

you need not pay me in cash

I will take all sorts of things

I will have a handful of one of your two selves

you may choose which,

as long as it is yours

and not something you found and keep in your pocket

not just any handful, mind you

it must be something beyond the day-to-day

something you think you cannot live without

I promise you, you can.

fear is good

give it to me: your fear

is not often needed

maybe you don’t need it all –

you have far too much,

a storehouse filled over the years

but your anger is real

I’ll have some of that

I will bake it into cookies

and put them in the freezer

I will keep it, trust me, and never use it

maybe return it on a special day

as for the other things

your love, your desire, your phantom rest

I have these things already

and you will never get them back.