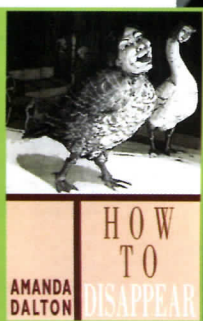
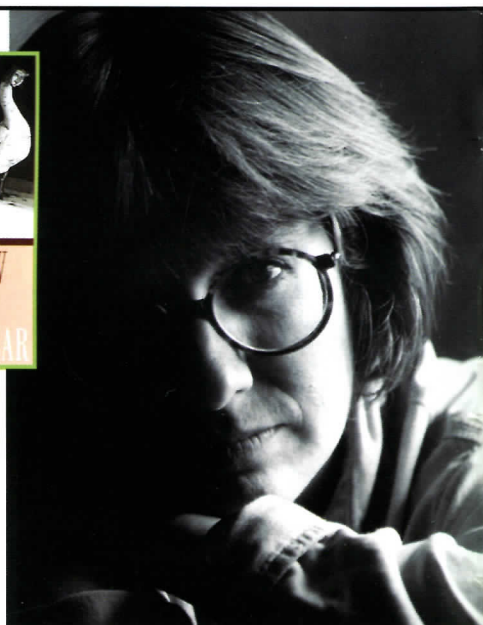


Amanda Dalton



How to Disappear

Bloodaxe
£6.95



POETRY BOOK SOCIETY RECOMMENDS

If you enjoy the poetry of Amanda Dalton why not try *Approximately Nowhere* by Michael Hofmann, *Fields Away* by Sarah Wardle and *Sound Barrier* by Maura Dooley.

Drawing on memories and on detailed observation, Amanda Dalton's poems have a knack of leaving the reader with a sense that there is more going on than is first apparent. She is constantly on the watch for incidents – in her own life or outside – from which poetry can be unlocked. In one poem it is a beached and dying whale, in the sonnet 'Cut Off' it is the seemingly simple act of re-building photographs. Delicately constructed, 'Cut Off' is a poem that radiates increasing possibilities the more one reads it, but has at its heart a simple and poignant story-line.

Cut Off

She gathered up our photographs of you
and one by one cut away the high
trees above your head, sliced through
chair legs and discarded all the sky.

You're intact, assembled in a frame
beside her bed. You in thin air.
You somewhere. She can't even name
the town or room you're in. She couldn't care

less but I've spent ages searching the bin
for scraps of garden and the old settee,
to put them back around you, to leave you in
a place you'll know with half a chance to see

the light on in the yard, the kitchen door
still open for you, wider than before.

from *How to Disappear*

Amanda Dalton was born in 1957 in Coventry. After working in Leicestershire comprehensive schools and as a youth theatre leader, she was a deputy head teacher for five years. After organising writers' courses for four years for the Arvon Foundation at Lumb Bank in West Yorkshire, she is now Education Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester. *How to Disappear* is her first book-length collection. Her radio version of 'Room of Leaves' (a section of *How to Disappear*), broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in autumn 1998, has been shortlisted for a Prix Italia award for radio drama.