

TO THE SOCIAL GIRLS

You have a competition
to see who can be
most like each other.

And most of you win.

SHOPPING CENTRE

In the newsagency
we heard the skid and winced
but there are so many skids
and no bang.

Probably a minute before
the screams.
People don't really scream like that.
But icy in the guts
because she screamed
my baby's been killed.

The most awful feeling
is helplessness
because there's nothing you can do about it.
By definition.
In the supermarket
people stared at tins of jam.
And we all rehearsed
being normal.

Afterwards we walked home
through streets
where the screams
hung like a silent gas.