

GRAHAM ROWLANDS

KARMA

First I could because I didn't
love her & was pleased
despite & because of

that's being the reverse of
only supposed to
if I did
love &

even that supposed to be hallowed
sealed & delivered
before delivery.

Then I thought I couldn't because
of this other woman
but sure I didn't
love I was
O.K.

although on a couple of occasions
I'd have to admit it
was a bit awkward.

Then the most extraordinary happened
the ordinary that keeps on
happening to everyone

although it was resisted &
new to me &
scary &

I was forced to admit it
was love & I didn't
like love at
all but

It was love & I guess
it wasn't entirely
unlinked with

the fact that on a particular day
at a particular moment at an
unexpected meeting with
this other woman

she'd (I mean this other woman)
she'd (I hated to say it
to myself let alone
to her) vanished.

It was not a third person we'd invented
& I don't think it was
a third person I'd
invented but
if it was

then it was she & she could only
be this other woman's woman
out of this other woman
made by & for me
& anyway

we were both alone together in a crowd
(we being this other woman & I)
trying to talk to each other
because she knew I
had this thing
about her &

although she no longer had a thing
about me she was trying to
be nice to me & I
to her I think
or hope
I was

but we were finding the going &
staying pretty difficult.

So I guess that the absence of
this thing I'd once called
love only once

meant if not some reincarnation
on the old karma then
the equivalent
thereof:

because I was once again in love
(tra la la & dumpty dee &
it looks as if it's
for good)

I knew I'd find & did
find for a while I
couldn't with her

(not this other woman).