

# Schedule

She dances through  
the middle of days,  
blends memories with oil of lavender, keeps  
conversations in scrapbooks.

She papers the walls with anecdotes,  
pinches her lips to hoard her thoughts,

and when asked for her opinions  
plucks on her mouth like a harpist  
playing on gut strings.

# Counsellor

The shine of his hair  
swept back by his hand

startles her. He leaves  
with her words recorded

in his red *This is Your Life* folder  
tucked under his arm.

He goes before she has finished,  
so she swallows her words

and the unspoken sentence  
slips down her throat.

# Yellow Trousers

She can talk forever.  
He does not have that long,  
there are people,  
appointments.  
They are not her business.

He wears yellow: odd,  
he has not worn it before.  
It does not suit him.  
He is not quite there:  
his head is outside

with his yellow trousers  
in the park perhaps,  
or a coffee shop.  
His sleeves rub the table,  
dirty at the cuff.

## Word Play

She looks at her words hanging up like washing.  
She thought she was told to hang  
them for medical reasons, but realises  
she was told to think before she speaks—  
not to air her dirty washing in public.

She writes in felt-tip pen across the walls,  
big, annotated letters, huge doodles,  
endless illustrations to bulk out her words:  
to make it look as if she has more to say.

# From Her VCR Manual

Picture this... it started during the play

[cue... she searches for the beginning]  
after 15 seconds he starts:

[cue... move forward, quickly, easily]  
during the 46 minutes he performed  
he has been special.

[cue... stand-by position]  
he longs for it,  
he wants to be desired,  
he must be desired.

[cue... in a forward direction]  
every time he performed  
he was high,  
he pushed forward, fast,  
marked seconds, minutes.

[cue... play at speed]  
he plays, he displays  
time after time  
he wants,  
must have,  
want  
have.

[cue... switch to the beginning]  
after 15 seconds he starts:  
he longs to play,  
he wants to play,  
when he finds what he wants  
it is finished.