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Title: How to Make a Woman out of Water

Date: 2007

Publisher: Enitharmon Press, London

Official URL:
http://www.enitharmon.co.uk/books/viewBook.asp?BID=253


Version of item: Sample poem from book, author copy
HOW TO MAKE A WOMAN OUT OF WATER

Move to a boathouse by a river –
the walls must be yellow, the windowsills blue.
Sleep downstairs with your head upstream,
wait for a dream of swimming.

When it rains all night and you lie awake
collecting the music of a leak
and reading The Observer's Book of Water
until you've learned that chapter

on whirlpools and waterspouts by heart,
listen to her whisper and giggle
as she scribbles her slippery name
over and over down the glass.

Have a bucketful of oysters in the sink
in case she's feeling peckish
and a case of Rainwater sherry
chilling in a cave behind the waterfall.

At the bottom of the well
there's one white pebble --
put it beneath your tongue
until it dissolves into a kiss.

Become so dry she will slip
into the shape of your thirst.
Prepare to be a shiver on her surface.
Taste her arrival on the wind.