

EDITH SPEERS

TO THE WOMAN WHO LAUGHED

you think it's funny I suppose
just because I've got five cats
but you've got a dog a husband and a baby
and think nothing of that

the other dog you finally shot
because it kept running away
but up until then the pair of them
would be off in the bush for days

they hung around my place sometimes
chased stock and stole food from the pantry too
I was scared I'd be forced to shoot them
and swore I'd never forgive you

I've got nothing against your husband
I don't know him as well as I might
only because I can take a hint—
you never let him out of your sight

I think your baby is lovely
one of my favourite three or four
which is why I don't mouth off when you're around
about "Does the world really need any more?"

you think I'm just a little bit odd
and what can I do but agree
yet my five come and go so quietly through life—
can you say the same for your three?