# dreams, SCREAMS & washing machines

**Pauline Deakin**

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**Dedication**

Thank you to my family for encouragement and to the person who let me share some of the difficult stuff as well as the love.

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Extract only

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**DREAMS**



**You Are Not a Poet**

You are not a poet
Because your poems don’t rhyme
Or scan
Or use long words.

You are not a poet
Because your poems are open.
Make sense.
Do not hide.

You are not a poet
Because nothing much happens
Except
They make me cry.

They are poets
Because someone decided
High up
In a tower.

So you are not a poet
And you’d better accept it.
Stop right now!
Why are you still writing?

**Ice**

The white hair soft as cotton wool.

Ice blue eyes. Hard.

You haunt my dreams.

Stuff of fairy tales.

Did I build you up

Into something I created?

Invading my space.

The witch, stepmother, ice queen

Tearing the skin and throwing it to the dogs.

Or are you the reflection of another?

I catch a glimpse of her from time to time

Reflected in the broken glass

As I glance into the eyes

Of the one who loved me

Once upon a time.

**Dreams, Screams and Washing Machines**

Last night I had my dream,

The one where I’m bathing the baby.

During a momentary lapse of concentration

I went to answer the phone.

When I returned

She was still swimming happily

Face down.

Before I had the baby

I used to dream about my cats.

I accidentally put one in the washing machine

With a pile of clothes.

It was quite a shock

To watch it miaowing silently

Through glass.

These dreams bother me.

(Although I’m very careful when awake).

It’s the way they keep recurring

Like someone nudging me in the ribs

Or standing behind me

Whispering seductively in my ear.

It’s all going to go wrong.

It’s all going to go wrong.

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