

**Claire Bateman**

## **The Shadow Quilt**

Far larger than the world,  
it weighs precisely nothing,

which is why we find it impossible to lift.

Its seams are either transparent  
or microscopic,

and the places where it's chosen  
to separate from itself—

some of them quite vast—

are neither holes nor ruptures,  
but something not unlike  
musical interludes,

though the fabric exhales  
only silence.

Never in its life  
has the shadow quilt been folded,  
nor does it fray or get bunched up,

though we've discovered  
to our delight

whole regions of it layered  
fathomless nothings deep.