

Notes on Emily Dickinson by Wendy Cope:

My friend loaned me Helen Vendler's new book, *Dickinson: Selected Poems and Commentaries*, which I've started reading with the kind of serious pleasure I usually bring to learning about something I love from someone who knows far more about it than I do. But I've been feeling excessively serious lately, and therefore searching for less serious pleasures, so I was pretty happy when I found a used copy of *Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis* by the British poet Wendy Cope in the used department before my shift today.

Cope has written a lot of books, and this (published in 1986) was one of her earliest. Last week I read a poem of hers called "The Uncertainty of the Poet" which I really liked, and that prompted me to go searching for her. *Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis*, which I've owned for all of eleven hours now, is pretty delightful. The title poem is great, and a couple of the other ones made me laugh out loud and want to show them to people (which I did, and they laughed too).