

FOUND IN BROOKLYN

by Thomas Roma

Norton, £14.95 paperback, £26 cloth



IN THE INTRODUCTION to this book, Robert Coles refers to Thomas Roma as a poet of the camera, and that's not a bad description. You'll never see any of Roma's black and whites being used by the Brooklyn Tourist Board, if indeed one exists, but his pictures create a truthful, no-nonsense overview of the photographer's hometown. Brooklyn, a district of New York, is portrayed as a rundown, scruffy neighbourhood, Roma concentrating his home-made camera on characteristically American local architecture and overgrown back yards. These give way to pictures of the local population. Snippets of life are captured with warmth generated by Roma's obvious affection for his locality. By the end you're left feeling all nice inside, just like you used to be when Cagney & Lacey had solved another New York crime.

Lee Gale