

How to Cure a Lonely Heart

A poetic guide to falling in love.

Chapter 1: To Know Another

Others

love was never harbor
for you

love was the ocean
deep waters
cold discovery behind pointed teeth

love was never frontier
for you

love was a canyon
a cliff's edge
filled with beasts but no river

love was never home
for you

the abandoned house
from your memories
condemned from the outside

you rented my heart
but I grew gills for yours
raised sheep for it
bought a couch for its living room

now I swim untouched depths unceasing
sleep under wool blankets
watch the rain under my new roof

and you wander
grinding feet for peace

Does closeness come naturally to you?

adrenaline junkies quiver
at this cliff diving sport

New Love

cold rapids that swallow
warm turquoise embraces

clangorous thrill
of the sweet unknown below

*can I still swim the sea?
can I break this ledge
and know the coming of another?*

one foot
then the other

chasing softer waves
I softly remember

How is your trust earned?

your thank you
is never apology
not given as a curse
with desperation of heart
of ragged scorn for your need of me

You say thank you
Like prayer
Like hallelujah for water in the draught
Like glory to God for my splendor

your thank you
is the wheel
the hushed dawn
the last grin
the holy grail

the reminder I live on
faithful and free

Who makes you feel safe?

I am woman
so I am legend
myth made true
love embodied
the world born anew

I set out to chart the seas
voraciously seeking

recording the
storms I have raged against

currents I have surrendered to

rain I have swallowed while lost

rock I have eaten when no one cared
to have me found

my only rest an abandoned ship
sinking and calling it Peace

just so I could follow the dotted line back
to find I have always been island
my green pastures in solitude
homeland

How does being alone make you feel?

you are the perfect storm.

a thick droplet blanket
that shrouds the lovers' denouement
eternally
our favorite moment

the serendipity of a misty sunny day
holy antipode
the rare gap
through which we glimpse God

the smiling taps on a summer window
reminding us of the blessed chill that awaits
reminding us
to be precious sweet with our time

celestial witness
singing awe
into our grateful hearts

who am I to love you?
but I do.
as the dirt meets the sky,
I do.

Who knows you best of anyone in the world?

you're an old wound
the shadow of an ugly gnarled thing
glossed over by time

I still feel your twist
in my chest
when it rains
when the names you'd call me echo at night
the phantom knife

I still feel.

then like daybreak
the scar tissue
the memory of
myself weaved whole
again for me
just for Me.

When was a time you felt hatred for someone?

candy floss threads
like spider webs

stick to our coats
as we all hug each other
Hello and Goodbye

until sweet cotton of time
brings us back together
again, again! again -

newly adorned
but sweeter still
again
again
again

Who is your best friend?

You were the first song
The first candle lit
The first shelter lifted
The first cake to rise

You can be heard from all corners of the earth
When the leaves brush and the owls cry
In the dawn chorus and the twilight sigh
Calling back whence we came from; marching us home

Who in your family are you closest to?

tell me your name
send it on a leaf
so I will hear it on the wind
and I will send you mine
my love

then through
the ice sharp fog
the tall snow at my mantel
the skeleton trees that sleep

we will feel no cold
know no hunger
fed happily on the warm honey
that is your whispered name in the throat

as we slumber contentedly through
this winter of love

How do you define fidelity?

now I call another "sweets"
linger not on the kisses
you would send me in my sleep

back when you were still
part boy
innocent prince
not yet sent to war

back when I was still
part girl
sleeping beauty
not yet bloodied by her quest

now I am Queen of no long darkneses
no requiems to my bedrock of pain
but my lips will forever reminisce
the press of those kisses
smiling underneath open eyes

Is there anyone you wish you could apologize to?

magnetic skin
alimentary waist
eyes of Charon
like studying the sun to behold

we flock to you
as only apostles do
desperate for your hidden wine
sustained on the rare sermon bestowed

praise God for your eternal life
we are but stars ferrying towards extinction
without you

Who is the biggest crush you've ever had?

centuries of hunger
demanded recompense

my birth
a howl in place of a cry
my legacy of cuts
a sharp edge honed through
generations of slicing
field then foe

all these years
I've hacked away
at anything that would not whet
silently begging

for dullness to come
for this ageless war to finally soften me
pound me deeper and further back
into the earth we once were
until this metal might be born again

flesh

What have your parents passed down to you?