

## Love demands expression

You said 'I love you.' What is it that the most unoriginal thing we can say to one another is still the thing we long to hear? 'I love you.' Is always a quotation. You did not say it first and neither did I, yet when you say it and when I say it we speak like savages who have found three words and worship them. ...

Love demands expression. It will not stay still, stay silent, be good, be modest, be seen and not heard, no. It will brake out in tongues of praise, the high note that smashes the glass and spills the liquid. It is no conservationist love. It is a big game hunter and you are the game. A curse on this game. How can you stick at a game when the rules keep changing? I shall call myself Alice and play croquet with the flamingos. In Wonderland everyone cheats and love is Wonderland, isn't it? Love makes the world go round. Love is blind. All you need is love. Nobody ever died of a broken heart. ...

It is the clichés that cause the trouble. A precise emotion seeks a precise expression. If what I feel is not precise then should I call it love? It's so terrifying, love, that all I can do is ..."

From Jeanette Winterson, *Written on the Body*, 2001