

- “Carol Ann Duffy's collection of love poems reads as a single narrative: the poems are linked - hand in hand - from the beginning of an affair to its end.” ¹Kate Kellaway
- “This renders the poems a combination of intimate and teasingly anonymous” - Kate Kellaway²
- “Love is an extremity, rivalled only by death.”Kate Kellaway³
- Rapture is sad, but not bleak. It draws on tradition, but is very up to date.⁴
- “The metaphysical dimensions of tragedy, especially the ideas of ineluctable destiny and inherited pollution”- Edith Hall⁵

‘To my mind, Duffy's most persuasive gifts are her unashamedly lyrical voice and her distinctively intellectual attention to repetition and wordplay.’⁶

For Duffy, selfhood and self-awareness involve a sense of original exile, so the self is fundamentally directed towards completion by the other. ⁷

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shering the reader from first spark to full flame to final, messy conflagration.⁸

¹<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2005/oct/09/poetry.features> Kate Kellaway

²Kate Kellaway- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2005/oct/09/poetry.features>

³ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2005/oct/09/poetry.features>

⁴ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/jan/07/featuresreviews.guardianreview19> Margaret Reynolds

⁵ Edith Hall- <http://crj.oxfordjournals.org/content/11/1/23.full>

⁶ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/jan/07/featuresreviews.guardianreview19>

⁷ Twiddy Iain <http://eprints2008.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/dspace/handle/2115/45206>

⁸ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2006/jan/20/poetry.books>