

1993

Valentine

immediate contrast + pessimism

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.

metaphor of fact/objectivity + content promising but lifeless

It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.

It promises light

5 like the careful undressing of love.

hollow + disappointing

Here.

superficial + incidental

It will blind you with tears

metaphor

like a lover.

It will make your reflection

10 a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

isolated - thoughtful

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.

Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,

simile

15 possessive and faithful

as we are,

ironically

for as long as we are.

Take it.

stronger than other things

Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring,

20 if you like.

Lethal.

structure

Its scent will cling to your fingers,

alliteration of c

cling to your knife.

CAROL ANN DUFFY

Structurally

1997

Living Space

Free verse - represents chaotic space.

wants it to be easy ←

There are just not enough straight lines. That is the problem. *caesura*

Nothing is flat - *enjambment* - contrast the broken house - life keeps rolling.

5 or parallel. Beams balance crookedly on supports thrust off the vertical.

personification - house is trying to survive

Nails clutch at open seams.

The whole structure leans dangerously towards the miraculous.

10 Into this rough frame, someone has squeezed a living space

extended metaphor for life.

forced - unconventional - unnatural.

and even dared to place these eggs in a wire basket,

contrast of white vs black

fragile curves of white hung out over the dark edge of a slanted universe,

- juxtaposition - into unknown

gathering the light *enormous*

15 into themselves, as if they were the bright, thin walls of faith.

} fragility of life, but also determination

IMTIAZ DHARKER

structure relates to slums unorderedly unorganised and random nature.

Hope against the odds

assonance is harsh

personification

philosophical from here

metaphor

vulnerable

over time, seeking - determined