**‘Valentine’-Carol Ann Duffy**

Negative tone, dismissing common ideas, clichés

Clichéd Valentine’s gifts-stereotypical symbols of love-rejecting these

Ideas of romance, love, affection, celebration

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

Alliteration-strong sound, fits negative tone

Unexpected, everyday item-unromantic

One sentence stanza-blunt, direct, almost forceful-‘I give you’-making something simple seem grand

I give you an onion.

Metaphor-compares shape and colour of moon to onion-iridescent, shining, round-gives it a magical quality; “brown paper”-onion skin-something beautiful hidden in a boring, ordinary shell-surprising

Meaning-love can surprise you-good things come in simple packages-doesn’t need to be showy to be special

It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.

Positivity, joy

It promises light

like the careful undressing of love.

One word sentence-grabbing attention, forceful-suggests receiver is reluctant to accept onion

Simile-appearances can be deceiving, what’s underneath matters most-“undressing”-romantic and emotional meaning

“love is blind”-blinded to faults of another-dangerous/harmful in this way

Here.

It will blind you with tears

Simile-cutting onions can make you cry, and sometimes relationships can cause upset-not always positive

like a lover.

It will make your reflection

Metaphor-love is fragile, can have powerful effect on emotions, long-lasting impact

a wobbling photo of grief.

Theme-honesty; going against typical ideals of romance and love

I am trying to be truthful.

Romantic stereotypes, typical displays of affection

Single line stanzas/short sentences-Abrupt, blunt, matter-of-fact tone

uhjjjjjjjjjjjjjjj

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

Negative-rejecting romantic stereotypes

Repeats structure of first line-emphasising dislike for romantic clichés

Short statement, repeated from stanza 2-still trying to justify the onion as a gift, make it seem important

I give you an onion.

Metaphor-kiss=taste of onion. Just as the taste of onion lingers, so too the memory of a powerful kiss remains

“fierce”= dangerous, harmful-taste of onion as strong

Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,

Contrast-kiss usually delicate, caring

possessive and faithful

Positive and negative aspects of loyalty in a relationship

as we are,

Repetition twists meaning

Acknowledging that not all relationships last-but can be powerful in the moment

for as long as we are.

Take it.

Precious metal-expensive, rare, shining

Short, abrupt command-forceful, desperate

Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring,

Claustrophobic imagery-negative

Comparison-both circular-a loop never ends-like relationship?

if you like.

‘til death do us part-marriage like a life sentence

Contrasts with demanding nature of first line in stanza-self-conscious, unaware of partner’s opinion on marriage

Lethal.`

memory

Its scent will cling to your fingers,

Annoying, desperate, never lets go

A relationship has a lasting impact-strong memories; shapes the way you approach love in the future

cling to your knife.

Oddly threatening image to end poem-negative aspects of love