

Love is Pain
Lang Leav Poetry Analysis

Love is wonderful but love is cruel, it could be kind, or is it? It drives mysteries and heartaches which sends us into a tumble. We do not know which we'll experience, is it a crush? Is it real? Am I in love? The answer appears once we experience it. There are endless types of love, whether it is love at first sight, unrequited love or unconditional love. However, they come with the risk of disappointment and hearts being broken. Lang Leav composed poems about the cost of love that one experiences if they have fallen in love and so, have fallen out of love. Leav was born in a refugee camp in Thailand, where her future was a blur, she then moved to Australia at the age of 5 where she remained there. Throughout her life, there were no significant romance with anyone until she met Michael Faudet, now her husband. She has written, pure poems that people could relate to, using rhyme, metaphor and irony to convey the theme that love is painful, it has so much impact that it can become "a scar" and often causes one heart to "sink".

The rhyme scheme in the poem "Closure" (Leav, 2013) suggests connection between the rhyming words and emphasizing on the pain, the longing of a loved one. The rhyme scheme is unclear, there's no specific type of rhyme scheme present:

Like time suspended,
a wound unmended-
you and I

We had no ending,
No said goodbye;

For all my life,
I'll wonder why

However, the first stanza, "suspended" rhymes with "unmended" to create a smooth flow to the poem and signify that the two things go together and demonstrate the feeling of negativity or problems being unsolved. In the second stanza there's no particular rhyme but the word "goodbye" rhymes with "why" in the third stanza. The two words causes the reader to feel a connection, which is to understand the author's message of not knowing "why" there were no "said goodbye" from a lover. This creates a feeling of longing, confusion and "wonder", as to think of "a wound" that was "unmended" and the time that was "suspended", they are forced out their nature and normality, a wound should be able to heal and the time must not wait for anyone. This causes the persona to feel like there's a big gap, a missing piece in her "life".

“Wounded” (Leav, 2013) demonstrates suffer from a heartbreak:

A bruise is tender
But does not last
It leaves me as
I always was

But a wound I take
much more to heart
for a scar will always
leave its mark

And if you should ask me
Which you are,
My answer is-
you are a scar.

It compares the feeling of a heartbreak with a “scar” and a “bruise” to a feeling of sorrow or disappointment experienced in someone’s daily life (excluding the sorrow and hurt from love). The “bruise” is different to “a scar” because bruises are “tender” and they would heal, it would often fade through time and leave the persona the way she was before, it shows that these “bruises” of sorrow or disappointment cannot change her and it “does not last”. Where as a “wound” that is taken to the heart, signifying of a heartbreak, will “leave it’s mark” and do so much damage that the “mark” becomes permanent, that a heartbreak from a certain lover hurts so much that is could be felt like cuts which “leaves a mark” and eventually become “a scar”. The pain felt so, so real it was physically hurting her, she felt as if the feeling of her heartbreaking was so strong that it damaged her body and the pain digs deep beneath her skin. In the final stanza, the persona confronts the heartbreaker, to tell him that he is no “tender” “wound” but instead the “scar” that has marked her heart with emotions that would never heal.

Irony was used in the poem “Wishful Thinking”, (Leav, 2013) to reveal the idea when one realizes a lover is no longer in love with them:

You say that you are over me,
my heart,
it skips,
it sinks.

As the persona finds out that the lover is “over” her, her heart “skips” and “sinks”, the irony here, demonstrates that the acknowledgement causes her heart to leap in alert because of the confrontation but once the information was pondered, the realization that it’s not good news, her heart begins to “sinks”. The sinking signifies that the emotions she

experiences is metaphorically weighing her down, the words and acknowledgment of her lover leaving her for “someone new” is causing her to drown and become suffocated. The contrast between two words shows her emotions and confusion at the point of encounter, whether to be alarmed or to “sink” in sorrow or both at once.

The second stanza tells the story when her lover is with “someone new” and she “stares”, she “blinks” at the new scenery:

I see you now with someone new,
I stare,
I stare,
I blink.

The line has a repetition of “stare” to emphasize that she is not moving or gazing anywhere else. The staring signifies that she is trying to capture every moment, trying to process what she is seeing and once she realizes, she “blinks” in disbelief. The irony as she “stares” and “blinks” once again gives rise to a feeling of confusion, disbelief and hurt. The last stanza, she appears to remind herself that she will be “over” him:

Someday I'll be over you,
I know,
I know,
I think.

She repeats to herself “I know, / I know” but the last line she ends with an “I think”. The contrast demonstrates that she is trying to tell herself and make herself believe that she will get “over” him because he has left her with “someone new”, she is battling between trying to make herself get over him but actually knowing that it wouldn't happen anytime soon, eventually as her words continued, she doubt herself and ended with an uncertain thought of “I think”.

A heart that risks its life for love is a heart that would go through a battle, through so much pain and disappointment. The rhyme in the poem “Closure” expresses that love without a “goodbye” is so damaging and remains unsolved, leaving the heart to wonder all their life. Whereas “Wounded” demonstrates metaphors between love and “a scar” but that a “bruise”, sorrow excluding sorrow from love, is able to heal. A heartbreak from love however, digs deep into the skin, changing it's appearance forever, like changing the heart and impact someone so deeply, the pain remains like “a scar”. A heartbreak in the poem “Wishful Thinking” causes the heart to start “sinking”, it also expresses the thought of the persona trying to convince herself that she doesn't deserve this type of love and must get “over” him but in truth, she could only “think”. As George Granville, a poet in the 18th century quoted “Of all the pains, the greatest pain is to love and love in vain..”. There's no fulfilled love without suffering from a “wound”; a heart that “sinks” and a “no said, goodbye”.