

This book was written to pay tribute to the most powerful of all human acts and emotions, to remind us of the power of love, and to serve as a physical gift to be given to anyone that you love.

Love:
The Greatest Force in The Wonderment of The Human Experience
By Kevin Unruh

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—  —
*A Book of Tribute
and a Book for Gifting*

KEVIN UNRUH

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Chapter 7

Romantic Love

We tend to rank romantic love above all the other kinds. Perhaps because of the nature of passion, perhaps because it stirs the highest highs and the most heart-breaking lows, or perhaps because it often results in the union of two people in a way that no other form of love does. Whatever the case, it is a beautiful, rapturous, *upending* experience that poets, authors, everyday adults, and adolescents alike write about, talk about, and think about more than any other subject. If there is anything that causes more joy, more tumult, and more raw emotion than romantic love, I cannot name it. It is no wonder, really, that we place it on the highest pedestal. And to those that approach romantic love with an attitude of abandon, I tip my hat and place them on the highest pedestal, as well.

Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness.¹⁴

– Bertrand Russell [*The Conquest of Happiness*]

your name/initials

If I had a flower for every time I thought of you... I could walk through my garden forever.¹⁵

– Alfred Tennyson

your name/initials

Kevin Unruh

*You are the finest, loveliest, tenderest, and most beautiful person I have ever known and even that is an understatement.*¹⁶

– F. Scott Fitzgerald

your name/initials

*If I know what love is, it is because of you.*¹⁷

– Hermann Hesse

your name/initials

*My soul and your soul are forever tangled.*¹⁸

– N.R. Hart

your name/initials

*Because of you, I can feel myself slowly, but surely, becoming the me I have always dreamed of being.*¹⁹

– Tyler Knott Gregson

your name/initials

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Your hand touching mine. This is how galaxies collide.²⁰

– Sanober Khan

your name/initials

I swear I couldn't love you more than I do right now, and yet I know I will tomorrow.²¹

– Leo Christopher

your name/initials

You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.²²

– Dr. Seuss

your name/initials

Chapter 9

Family

The love of family is like no other. It is innate, profound, and indelible. Parents are our first role models, champions, and protectors; brothers and sisters are our first friends, confidants, and team members; and grandparents are very often our first sense of history, of family identity, and of family pride. Love of family gives us a sense of belonging, a sense of security, and a comforting sense of foundation that we do not get as deeply from any other source. The love of family is the beginning of our understanding of love, supports us through the evolution of our lives, and sustains us until the end. The love of family is like no other.

Mothers

*Mama was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love, and fearlessness. If love is sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love.*³³

– Stevie Wonder

your name/initials

*An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.*³⁴

– Rudyard Kipling

your name/initials

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*I can imagine no heroism greater than motherhood.*³⁵

– Lance Conrad

your name/initials

*A mother understands what a child does not say.*³⁶

– A Jewish proverb

your name/initials

Fathers

*My father didn't tell me how to live;
he lived and let me watch him do it.*³⁷

– Clarence Budington Kelland

your name/initials

*One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.*³⁸

– George Herbert

your name/initials

*Everything my mother and father did
was designed to put me where I am.³⁹*

– Henry Louis Gates

your name/initials

*I am not ashamed to say that no man I ever met was my father's equal,
and I never loved any other man as much.⁴⁰*

– Hedy Lamarr

your name/initials

Sisters

*I do not see as well without her. I do not hear as well without her. I do
not feel as well without her. I would be better off without a hand or a
leg than without my sister.⁴¹*

– Erin Morgenstern

your name/initials

Kevin Unruh

*For there is no friend like a sister in calm or stormy weather; To cheer
one on the tedious way, To fetch one if one goes astray, To lift one if
one totters down,
To strengthen whilst one stands.*⁴²

– Christina Rossetti

your name/initials

*Sweet is the voice of a sister in the season of sorrow.*⁴³

– Benjamin Disraeli

your name/initials

*There can be no situation in life in which the conversation of my dear
sister will not administer some comfort to me.*⁴⁴

– Mary Worley Montagu

your name/initials

Brothers

*There is no love like the love for a brother. There is no love like the
love from a brother.*⁴⁵

– Astrid Alauda

your name/initials

*It takes two men to make one brother.*⁴⁶

– Israel Zangwill

your name/initials

*Stop for a moment and realize how lucky you are to have one.*⁴⁷

– Max Lagacé

your name/initials

*He ain't heavy, he's my brother.*⁴⁸

– James Wells

your name/initials

Grandparents

*Grandparents can be very special resources. Just being close to them reassures a child, without words, about change and continuity, about what went before and what will come after.*⁴⁹

– Fred Rogers

your name/initials

Kevin Unruh

If God had intended us to follow recipes, He wouldn't have given us grandmothers.⁵⁰

– Linda Henley

your name/initials

No spring, nor summer hath such grace, as I have seen in one autumnal face.⁵¹

– John Donne

your name/initials

Sons/Daughters

Sons are the anchors of a mother's life.⁵²

– Sophocles

your name/initials

*A man ain't nothing but a man. But a son? Well, now, that's somebody.*⁵³

– Toni Morrison

your name/initials

*You are my angel. You remind me of the goodness in this world
and inspire me to be the greatest version of myself.*⁵⁴

– Steve Maraboli

your name/initials

*Life is tough, my darling, but so are you.*⁵⁵

– Stephanie Bennet Henry

your name/initials

Nieces/Nephews/Cousins

*Nieces and nephews are exactly like the children I would've chosen to
be my kids, if I had chosen to be a parent, which I didn't – because I
already had such great nieces and nephews.*

– Me

your name/initials

Kevin Unruh

I really enjoy being an uncle. I basically get to rent out the kids for free, have almost no responsibility, get to be funny and act cool, and get to buy them frivolous things for which I get 10X more credit than their parents get for all the boring stuff they have to buy them – you know, for education and survival and stuff.

– Me

your name/initials

Nieces and nephews are familial gifts that afford us the wonderful opportunity of loving two people at once: the child themselves and the brother or sister that made us the aunt or uncle.

– Me

your name/initials

A good cousin is like having a bonus brother or sister. Who doesn't love a good cousin?

– Me

your name/initials

There often exists a family member that isn't technically a brother or sister but who, due to the many convolutions and vagaries of some family dynamics, is even better than a brother or sister. And that person is often a cousin.

– Me

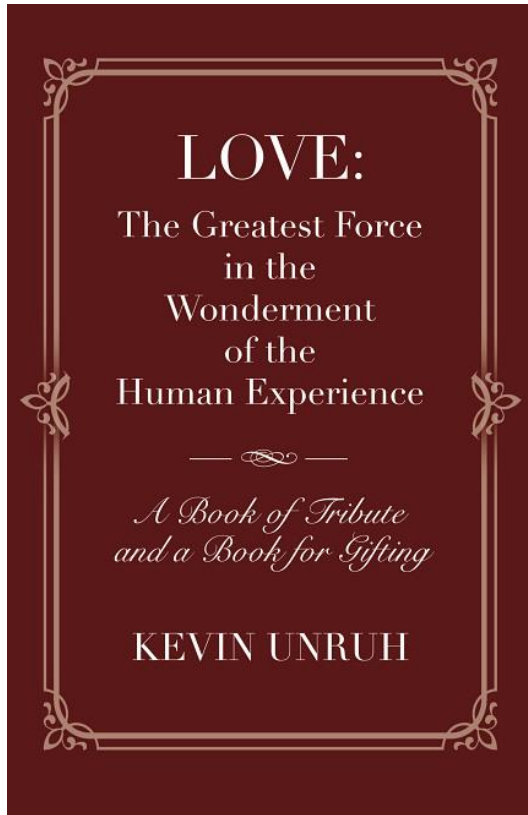
your name/initials

Chosen Family

Blood does not family make. Those are relatives. Family are those with whom you share your good, bad, and ugly and still love one another in the end. Those are the ones you select.⁵⁶

– Hector Xtravaganza

your name/initials



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