

love, present tense

i've never written a love poem

like a real one

like an "i'm-in-love-right-now" poem

usually i'm musing on sorrow or shame or pain
bathing myself in my misfortune

but you were sleeping next to me today
and i love you
present tense

as i read my book
(the one i love that i want you to read)
i heard you snore

you snored
and i looked
and i love you

i took a picture
to remember what you looked like
because i love you

i love you beyond a moment
i love you presently, not retroactively
i love you in a way that i'm choosing to immortalize

and you know that's scary for me

by writing these words now
by saying

i love you
present tense

i'm locking myself in

to my own sentiment

i'm recording my vulnerability to you

i'm not just saying

i love you

i'm saying

you matter to me you're important to me i want
you to be proud of me to hold me to touch me

to love me
too

and what if you don't
always

i wouldn't blame you

i am every-changing ever-fading

and the boy you love
could be the man you despise

you know?

you say it's impossible
but you don't know me like i know me

within this body are things
that even i am too afraid to face

so yeah
i wouldn't blame you

if you stopped loving me

but right now
i'm saying
on paper

and with pen

that i love you
present tense

and so
i hope that
you love me
present tense

and maybe
"future tense"
too