

Needn't

"I love you"
Has bound lives,
And broken homes.

"I love you"
Inspires kindness
And justifies cruelty.

Found battered and broken,
The melodramatic harmony
Of her incessant sadness,
And naught hallowed hopes
To warp eyes and ears,
And twist lips and hold tongues—
Reciprocation expected,
And trust in déception.

All wrapped around words
We're expected to know
And feelings to accept.

The way my heart was held,
And cries heard,
Meaningful nothings whispered.

A smile formed and tongue
Justly unfurled.

And in complete safety
And satisfaction,
My cheeks blushing as the words roll off my heart:
You don't have to love me.

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