

## Eavan Boland – Love – Highlighted Quotes

Dark falls on this mid-western town  
where we once lived when myths collided.  
Dusk has hidden the bridge in the river  
which slides and deepens  
to become the water  
the hero crossed on his way to hell.

Not far from here is our old apartment.  
We had a kitchen and an Amish table.  
We had a view. And we discovered there  
love had the feather and muscle of wings  
and had come to live with us,  
a brother of fire and air.  
We had two infant children one of whom  
was touched by death in this town  
and spared: and when the hero  
was hailed by his comrades in hell  
their mouths opened and their voices failed and  
there is no knowing what they would have asked  
about a life they had shared and lost.

I am your wife.  
It was years ago.  
Our child was healed. We love each other still.  
Across our day-to-day and ordinary distances  
we speak plainly. We hear each other clearly.

And yet I want to return to you  
on the bridge of the Iowa river as you were,  
with snow on the shoulders of your coat  
and a car passing with its headlights on:

I see you as a hero in text--  
the image blazing and the edges gilded--  
and I long to cry out the epic question  
my dear companion:  
Will we ever live so intensely again?  
Will love come to us again and be  
so formidable at rest it offered us ascension  
even to look at him?

But the words are shadows and you cannot hear  
me.  
You walk away and I cannot follow