

# LOVE



From the heady days of early romance to the pain of unrequited affection, the vagaries of love have been captured by some of our greatest poets. Romantic verse finds its way into our love letters – or perhaps love emails, nowadays – and wedding services, because poetry can speak with an eloquence we tend to lack. Whether in search of the right way in which to express your feelings for the object of your ardour, or simply a line to sum up the pain of a lost love, this collection of beautiful poetry is worth memorizing.

**JOHN DONNE** (1572–1631)

## The Good-Morrow

I wonder, by my troth, what thou and I  
Did, till we loved? were we not weaned till then?  
But sucked on country pleasures, childishly?  
Or snorted we in the Seven Sleepers' den?  
'Twas so; but this, all pleasures fancies be.  
If ever any beauty I did see,  
Which I desired, and got, 'twas but a dream of thee.

And now good-morrow to our waking souls,  
Which watch not one another out of fear;  
For love, all love of other sights controls,  
And makes one little room an everywhere.  
Let sea-discoverers to new worlds have gone,  
Let maps to others, worlds on worlds have shown,  
Let us possess one world; each hath one, and is one.

My face in thine eye, thine in mine appears,  
And true plain hearts do in the faces rest;  
Where can we find two better hemispheres  
Without sharp North, without declining West?  
Whatever dies, was not mixed equally;  
If our two loves be one, or, thou and I  
Love so alike that none do slacken, none can die.