

2008

Valentine

Kiki Petrosino

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Petrosino, Kiki. "Valentine." *The Iowa Review* 38.2 (2008): 100-101. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6490>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Valentine

Sorry, but I just don't love you
more than Darwinism.

More than: *Farmers take their animals to feed
upon the alpine balds.*

I don't love you more than this cheese slice
which tastes of Swiss feet.

I don't love you more than falling off the
button lift, or haul lines,

or deciding whether peanut M&Ms are treats
or snacks.

I don't love you more than old darkneses
and sipping from thimbles.

I just don't love you.
I just don't love you more than pizza.

Or the final scenes of *Clue*.
Or colored chalk.
Or what Clive Owen's jaws are made out of.

I don't love you more than the social imagination.
Or more than NPR on Sunday.

Or my own face, glyphed
with tulip pollen.

I don't love you more than the word *classic*.
Or my afro.
Or this badass wrestling singlet.

No. But you're better off.
I'd only cause you grief, in time.

Abandon you for someone jazzy, more hirsute—
Probably. I guess.

I mean, maybe if you stepped into the singlet right now.
Theoretically. Just to see.

Wait— Wait—
(...)

Nope.