

## Summary\*

*Love, Death, Humanism: Practical Philosophy in Verse* is a wide-ranging collection of haiku quintets that uses poetry to explore three enduring questions: how to love, how to face death, and how to live as a secular humanist. Drawing on personal experience, philosophy, psychology, science, and family life, the book presents a sustained meditation on what it means to be human in a finite, uncertain, and often troubled world. Its voice is intimate but reflective, blending memoir, argument, and lyric compression into a single poetic framework.

The first section, on love, centers especially on the author's long marriage and the daily practices that sustain partnership: reciprocity, listening, compromise, tenderness, and mutual repair. These poems portray love not as fantasy or possession but as a lived discipline, built through attention, humility, and trust. Family relationships extend this theme through portrayals of children, parents, and grandchildren, showing love in caregiving, memory, grief, and generational continuity.

The death section shifts into a clear-eyed confrontation with mortality, aging, loss, and the eventual end of consciousness. Rather than sentimentalize death, the poems approach it as a natural fact, often with calm acceptance and occasional dark humor. The speaker repeatedly weighs finitude against purpose, legacy, and suffering, asking how to live well while time narrows and the body declines.

The humanism section broadens the book into a secular worldview grounded in science, skepticism, and moral responsibility. Here the poems reject supernatural explanations and instead affirm empirical inquiry, human solidarity, and ethical concern for sentient life. The collection closes by linking personal belief to public witness: the author's aim is to leave behind words that encourage kindness, reason, and clarity in a chaotic age.

Overall, the book is less a conventional argument than a poetic philosophy of living. It invites readers to consider love as a practice, death as a reality, and humanism as a workable moral stance, while letting each brief piece resonate beyond its small form.

\*Summary created by perplexity.ai

