

Prologue: "I'm Stunned"

There are things that you can and should say when a man tells you that he loves you for the very first time. There are other things that might occur to you in that instant — surprising things that billow into your consciousness unbidden. Be careful. Things in this second category are far, far better left as puzzling little asides for your amusement only. Things in this second category should never, ever be spoken aloud. Not to him, not to your closest friends and not even to yourself, even if you know for certain that you are the only one in the room. Regardless of how honest they might be. Especially because of how honest they might be.

Believe me. When a man tells you that he loves you for the very first time, it's not good to look him straight in the eye and say back, "I'm stunned."