In my family, the words "I love you" are never said. It's not that we don't love each other. we just show it without saying it. I help my sister learn her multiplication tables, and I collect my baby brother's vegetables from under his chair. My mom puts oatmeal raisin cookies in my lunch, and my dad takes me to the tractor-pull exhibitions. Then the puppy came, and I don't think I'd ever heard "I love you" so much "Where's my lovey-dovey Shadow?"Last night, after my mom and dad squished the covers under my neck, I murmured, "I love you." When their silhouettes froze in the doorway, I suddenly hoped they hadn't heard me. thre I imagined my heart beating through the covers. and I twisted away so my blanket shielded my eyes Say The next day, Dad came home early and shouted, "Where's my boy?"I bit the inside of my er; lip and continued playing Go Fish with my sister ter as Shadow scampered in and out of Dad's legs.Dad sat down on the floor, hugged me tightly, and said, "No, here's my boy." Then he said, "I love you, Jonah."And she practically held his aluminum dog bowl while Shadow scattered food all over .the kitchen floor.Mom would croon

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