



CLAIM:

Mel challenges the notion that anyone really knows what love is.

Supporting Evidence

"What do any of us really know about love?"

(Reference: page 176)

Supporting Evidence

"It seems to me we're just beginners at love."

(Reference: page 176)

Supporting Evidence

"There was a time when I thought I loved my first wife more than life itself. But now I hate her guts. I do. How do you explain that? What happened to that love?"

(Reference: page 177)

CLAIM:

Carver complicates the picture of love with the use of violent and/or gruesome images. Acts of violence or the results of acts of violence are paired with instances of love.

Supporting Evidence

Mel said, "He shot himself in the mouth in his room. [...]The man lived for three days. His head swelled up to twice the size of a normal head. I'd never seen anything like it, and I hope I never do again." => "It was love," Terri said. "Sure, it's abnormal in most people's eyes. But he was willing to die for it. He did die for it."

(Reference: page 174)

Supporting Evidence

"That's right," Mel said. "Some vassal would come along and spear the bastard in the name of love."

(Reference: page 181)

Supporting Evidence

"The old couple, they were alive, you understand. I mean, just barely. But they had everything. Multiple fractures, internal injuries, hemorrhaging, contusions, lacerations, the works, and they each of them had themselves concussions." => "I mean, it was killing the old fart just because he couldn't look at the fucking woman."

(Reference: pages 179, 183)