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A serious talk raymond carver pdf books list printable pdf

"What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" Mel McGinnis is a 45-year-old cardiologist married to Teresa, also known as Terri. "After the Denim" James & Edith Packer, an elderly couple, go out for the night to play bingo at the local community center. The four sit around a table at Mel and Terri's, drinking gin in the afternoon. The former was the inspiration for the Paul Kelly song "Everything's Turning to White" on the album So Much Water So Close to Home and was also later adapted for the 2006 film Jindabyne. The story ends with Stuart making a sexual advance on Claire in the kitchen. Mel would visit the couple daily, and when he put his ear to the husband's mouth-hole, the latter told Mel he was upset because he could not see his wife through his eye-holes. Burt apologizes but Vera does not think it's very sincere. The women, when they arrive, drop their bikes and cut down a path away from the men, which doesn't really bother Bill but angers Jerry, who devises a plan to cut them off. They soon start to talk about love. Carver's widow, Tess Gallagher, fought with Knopf for permission to republish the 17 stories in What We Talk About When We Talk About Love as they were originally written by Carver.[7] These original versions eventually appeared in Beginners, published by Jonathan Cape in 2009, and in the Library of America volume Collected Stories.[8] In popular culture The stories "So Much Water So Close to Home" and "Tell the Women We're Going" were adapted for Robert Altman's 1993 feature film Short Cuts. The narrator, Nick, describes Mel as tall and rangy with curly soft hair and Teresa (who is Mel's second wife) as bone-thin with a pretty face, dark eyes, and brown hair. The father asks Les if everything is okay, and Les lies, saying everything is fine. She realizes it's the open gate, and hesitantly she goes to the kitchen to smoke for a while before going out to investigate, leaving her alcoholic husband Cliff "passed out" and snoring loudly in bed. Thomson attributes his choice of acting as a profession to a complimentary note he once received from Carver written on a cocktail napkin. In Ed's second, successful attempt he shot himself in the mouth. In Carver's original version, the two had separate rooms, which caused them to pine for each other and eventually led to a scene when they met again. Alejandro González Iñárritu's 2014 film Birdman or: The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance depicts an eclipsed Hollywood star, Riggan Thomson, who mounts a Broadway production of "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" as its central storyline. The day after Christmas, Burt comes back to Vera's house to explain away his poor, erratic behavior from the day before. On her way to the funeral, a man in a pickup truck pulls her over and asks to talk to her, wants to make sure she's safe. ^ Ann Charters, The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction. archive.nytimes.com. No matter what Terri says, Mel refuses to believe that was "love". "The Real Carver: Expansive or Minimal?" – via NYTimes.com. "The Third Thing That Killed My Father Off" Jack Fraser tells the story of a local simpleton and outsider named Dummy who worked in the same sawmill as Jack's father Del. The manuscript version titled "The Fling" appears in Beginners (2009). Claustrophobic and frightened, Claire clicks her car locks shut and says she's fine. The Quarterly West version incorporated many of Lish's suggested changes, while the final version was 9% shorter.[3] It tells the story of a drinking man overseeing his yard-sale. On his way out to make room for Vera's boyfriend Charlie, who is to arrive after six, Burt steals six pies from the kitchen counter. She mocks the record-player and records he gave them, saying: "Will you look at this shit?" The story ends with her trying to make sense of the man's situation before quitting her wondering altogether. On the 26th Vera does not want to talk to Burt; she doesn't have the time, she has plans. Nick is 38 years old, and married to Laura, 35, who works as a legal secretary. He says that they had "multiple fractures, internal injuries, hemorrhaging, contusions, and lacerations."[5] The couple were in casts and bandages from head to toe. The phone rings again (it's for Charlie again) and Vera says she'll answer it from the bedroom. "The Bath" On his birthday, young Scotty is walking to school when he is hit by a car and knocked unconscious. On their way out, they see two women biking down the road. Mel strays from the topic with more talk about Ed, his personal thoughts about love, hatred toward his ex-wife, and life as a knight. Later, when the young girl gets bingo, everybody but James claps. Terri has had an abusive relationship; the abuse, she says, derives from love. Later, Jack understands Dummy's plight more clearly. Retrieved from " The story was first published in Quarterly West in Autumn 1978 and later in The Paris Review in Spring 1981. They drive ahead and wait for the women to pass. I'd get up to his mouth-hole, you know, and he'd say no, it wasn't the accident exactly but it was because he couldn't see her through the eye-holes. Duane tries to convince Holly that their love can be rekindled and reconciled but Holly does not agree. Instead of hanging up when Vera commands, Burt takes a knife from the cabinet and cuts the cord in two. They haggle a little over prices and buy a TV and a bed. Additionally, Herb's story about the old couple was cut nearly in half, with Lish removing the story of the old couple's home life, love, and reunion in the hospital. "Mr. Coffee and Mr. Fixit" A man reflects "about three years back" on his struggle to come to grips with a couple of troublesome relationships. Claire wonders why they didn't go fishing locally, why didn't they report the body quickly. They live together in Albuquerque. Jerry proposes turning back and chatting them up. Fairly sure that his father will play a negligent to nonexistent role in his future, Les boards his flight. Lish removed all of this, rewrote the couple into the same room, but in body casts that prevented them from seeing each other, and then explained the old man's distress thus: "I mean, the accident was one thing, but it wasn't everything. 999. Ed had drunk rat poison, but was rushed to the hospital where he was saved. Shortly before his death, Carver arranged the publication of his own selection of 37 of his stories, Where I'm Calling From: Selected Tales. ^ Jonah Weiner (May 6, 2011). The reader gets the feeling that he may be selling all his possessions, looking to start life anew. Burt notices cigarette butts that are not Vera's regular brand collected in the ashtray, "their ashtray," and feels out of place. It's a call for Charlie and Burt responds curtly, saying he's "not here" before leaving the phone off the hook. The manuscript version of the same title appears in Beginners (2004). The man decides he wants to bring the baby with him but the woman doesn't want him to. The manuscript version titled "Pie" appears in Beginners (2009). Maxine, the wife, comes home and notices L.D. is drunk. A young couple stops by to select furniture for their new apartment. After the funeral Claire overhears a woman saying they caught the killer, but Claire is not so certain they have the right man. While there, James is perturbed by a young hippy-like couple dressed in denim who go on to ruin his fun and evening: they take the Packers' parking spot; James sees the young man cheating and confronts him but the man denies the allegation. Their baby is crying. I'm telling you, the man's heart was breaking because he couldn't turn his goddamn head and 'see' his goddamn wife." Mel looked around the table and shook his head at what he was going to say. I could hear everyone's heart. "Tell the Women We're Going" Two close childhood friends, Bill Jamison & Jerry Roberts, are out of school and married. Christmas Day, Burt put too many logs in the fire which could've burned the place down. A fissure seems to grow between the father and son during the uncomfortable, transient, confusing meeting. Ed also stalked Mel and Terri and called Mel at work with threatening messages. "I Could See the Smallest Things" Nancy wakes up in the middle of the night because of a noise outside. "Gazebo" Set in a roomy upstairs suite, motel managers Holly & Duane discuss the disintegration of their marriage. Later, after the body is identified and Stuart is at work, Claire reads the funeral plans in the newspaper and decides to attend. Ed's first attempt at suicide was when Terri had left him. The story "Why Don't You Dance?" serves as the basis for the award-winning 2004 short film Everything Goes as well as for the 2010 feature film Everything Must Go. The 2012 film Stuck in Love uses the quote, "I could hear my heart beating. I could hear the human noise we sat there making, not one of us moving, not even when the room went dark" from "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" as the main character's, author Bill Borgens's, favorite quote. Carver's original draft, released by his widow Tess Gallagher and published[6] in a December 2007 issue of the New Yorker, reveals the extensive edits. Burt leaves calmly and, as he drives away in his car holding the ashtray, he is deludedly positive that in a few weeks they'll have a "serious talk" and get back together. ^ "WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT LOVE | Kirkus Reviews" – via www.kirkusreviews.com. At the fence, Nancy meets her neighbor Sam, a widower, who is spreading insecticide to kill slugs which are ruining his garden. At one point, Mel was so scared he bought a gun and made out a will. Terri and Mel argued about whether she could be in the hospital bedroom with him when he died. ^ King, Stephen (November 19, 2009). The parents get into a tussle and a tug-of-war over the baby. Collected Stories. While Vera is the bathroom the phone rings and she shouts at Burt to answer it. Terri won and was with Ed as he died; as Terri puts it, "He never came up out of it." Soon afterward, Mel begins a story about an elderly couple struck by a drunk driver, a teenager who was pronounced dead at the scene. James is certain the couple will use the victory money on drugs. He remembers how his father died and suggests to Myrna that they "hug awhile" and have a "real nice supper," and she responds somewhat lukewarmly. "Little Things" A man is packing a suitcase; a woman swears and yells at him, glad he's leaving. The New York Times. Duane has been having an affair with a cleaning lady, Juanita. Ed, Terri's former abusive boyfriend, "loved her so much he tried to kill her." Ed would beat Terri; he dragged her around the living room by her ankles knocking her into things along the way. That night as the Packers are getting ready for bed, Edith reveals to James that she's been "bleeding" and "spotting," and she'll require medical attention. "Fledgling Filmmaker Casts Against Type". The narrator asks the photographer in for coffee. The manuscript version titled "Dummy" appears in Beginners (2009). ^ Carver, Raymond. He included some stories as edited by Lish, some restored from his original manuscripts, and some unpublished stories. Mel's point in telling the story is the husband's consternation when the couple was moved into the intensive care unit. The story ends in a surprise, with Jerry bashing Shannon and Barbara over their heads with a rock, ostensibly killing them both and proving Jerry's deep unhappiness. "A Serious Talk" Burt is unable to leave his estranged wife Vera alone. The Broadway production includes several aspects of the Carver story — such as the four friends telling stories over a bottle of gin, and Mel's story about the couple in the car crash — but also includes other, more melodramatic storylines that are not part of the Carver story. The manuscript version titled "Where Is Everyone?" appears in Beginners (2009). The manuscript version titled "If It Please You" appears in Beginners (2009). "I mean, it was killing the old fart just because he couldn't 'look' at the fucking woman." Lish also cut out eight paragraphs at the end, in which Terri communicates her worry over Herb's depression to Laura and Nick, and another aspect of love is shown as Laura comforts Terri, tying together all the types of love discussed in the story. What We Talk About When We Talk About Love First editionAuthorRaymond CarverCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishPublisherKnopfPublication date1981Media typePrintPages176 What We Talk About When We Talk About Love is a 1981 collection of short stories by American writer Raymond Carver, as well as the title of one of the stories in the collection.[1][2] Content "Why Don't You Dance?" In 1977, Carver submitted a story with this title to Esquire, which Gordon Lish subsequently edited and retitled "I Am Going to Sit Down", but no version ever appeared in Esquire. Maxine sides with Rae, saying she can like what she likes. Then the drinking man dances with the young girl, and she says to him: "You must be desperate or something." Several weeks later, the young girl is telling her friends about the man at his yard-sale. Restless and upset over his wife's sickness, James wonders why it isn't the young couple who has all the problems. Dummy drifts further into isolation and his wife starts going around with another man. It is much shorter than "A Small, Good Thing" and ends on an ambiguous note as Scotty's mother goes home from the hospital to take a bath, which is where this version of the story gets its name. The drinking man tells the young girl to put a record on. Mel feels even though one loves a person, if something were to happen to them, the survivor would grieve but love again. L.D. starts packing, stuffing not only his belongings into his suitcase but also vindictively taking womanly toiletries he could make no use of. They were the last words spoken in the film. While the wife was away, the father had been having an extramarital affair with a Stanley Products saleswoman. Del impresses upon Jack what a wrong woman can turn a man into. The manuscript version titled "Want to See Something?" appears in Beginners (2009). The manuscript version titled "Distance" appears in Beginners (2009). Taking one last look around, about to leave for good, L.D. says he has one more thing to tell his wife and daughter but, suddenly inarticulate, he is unable to put what he feels into words. The story was adapted in the 2010 film Everything Must Go starring Will Ferrell and written and directed by Dan Rush.[4] "Viewfinder" A hook-handed man takes a photograph of the narrator's house from the street, then sells it to him. The story ends with the man and the woman pulling tremendously on the baby, with somewhat ambiguously grim results. "The Bath" is a predecessor of "A Small, Good Thing," one of Carver's most famous stories, which was published in Cathedral. References ^ "Books of The Times". Duane is left hopelessly bemoaning the future he had envisioned with Holly. As he reaches for her breasts, she hears water running in the sink and is reminded of the girl floating in the river. Vera comes back into the kitchen, and it's clear she cannot tolerate Burt sticking around. Instead of reporting the body to the police right away, the four enjoy their vacation fishing, eating, and drinking whisky as they sit by the fire. ^ a b Raymond Carver's story "Beginners" and Gordon Lish's edits of the story create the first published version, entitled "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love." ^ Rich, Motoko (October 17, 2007). Can you imagine? Mel was called into the hospital and saw how badly the elderly couple had been injured. They play pool and drink beer at the Rec Center. Earlier version Carver's original draft of the story "Beginners" was heavily edited by Gordon Lish, who cut out nearly half of Carver's story, adding in details of his own. When the music begins the man asks the couple to dance. Claire feels distanced from her husband and cannot stop wondering about the dead girl, whom she feels connected to. As the quartet packs up the next morning, Stuart uses a payphone to call the body into the police. He said that that was making him feel so bad. Titled "Little Things" in Where I'm Calling From (1988); the manuscript version titled "Mine" appears in Beginners (2009). Del gets Dummy to fill a pond on his land with bass, but Dummy eventually builds an electric fence around it so people stop coming by. He was surprised to see his elderly single mother kissing a man on the sofa upstairs. They pull up to the women and Bill introduces himself and Jerry, but the girls, Barbara & Shannon, seem uninterested. "The Calm" A man sitting in a barber's chair getting a haircut listens as three men waiting their turn argue about a hunting story one of the men is telling. Note on the Texts, p. "So Much Water So Close to Home" At breakfast, Claire, the narrator, is shocked to learn her husband Stuart and his three buddies found the body of a girl washed up on the rivershore upon arriving in the afternoon for their yearly camping trip, as reported by the morning newspaper. Nancy says she will and goes back to bed, realizing she forgot to latch the gate shut. After finishing the second bottle of gin, the couples discuss going to dinner, but no one makes any moves to proceed with their plans. Nancy & Sam talk and it becomes clear Sam and Cliff, once good friends, have had a falling-out. Editing There was some contention between Raymond Carver and his editor Gordon Lish over several stories in the collection; the author complained about the "surgical amputation and transplant that might make them someway fit into the carton so the lid will close."[6] Eventually, the book was published with Lish's extensive alterations, and received critical acclaim. "Sacks" Les, a textbook salesman, reflects back a year ago on an incident where he met up with his father in a Sacramento airport. He says his kids were crazy and so was his wife, Myrna, who eventually fell for another man named Ross whom she met at Alcoholics Anonymous. Mel even wrote to his brother in California, saying that "if something happened to him" to look for Ed. Terri's abusive boyfriend eventually committed suicide after two attempts (as Terri sees it, another act of love). "Everything Stuck to Him" A father tells his 21-year-old daughter what life was like for their family when she was a young child. Uncomfortably, they comply. One Sunday afternoon, the two men leave their wives and Jerry's kids to go out for a drive. She believes Stuart and his friends could have killed her perhaps. It's been two years since his father's divorce from his mother. The story ends with Dummy murdering his wife and committing suicide by drowning in his beloved pond. Vera realizes what's happened and yells for Burt to leave, saying she'll get a restraining order. Terri believes that Ed loved her and his abuse was his way of showing it. For instance, the character Mel was originally named Herb, and the abusive boyfriend, renamed Ed by Lish, was originally named Carl. "One More Thing" At the kitchen table, L.D. argues with his daughter Rae, age 15, about her beliefs. New York: Library of America, 2009. After Jerry marries, Bill senses a change in his friend. The manuscript version of the same title appears in Beginners (2009). Lonely and wishing to patch up their relationship, Sam asks Nancy to tell Cliff he said hello. "Raymond Carver's Life and Stories" – via NYTimes.com. Maxine gives L.D. an ultimatum: he must pack his things and go or she'll call the police. In a moment of fury, L.D. throws a pickle jar through the window, shattering the glass.

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