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

### Supporting Evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**Claim:** What do any of us really know about love?

*Reference: page 176*

**Claim:** It seems to me we’re just beginners at love.

*Reference: page 176*

**Claim:** 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

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**Claim:** 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.

*Reference: page 174*

**Claim:** That’s right,” Mel said. “Some vassal would come along and spear the bastard in the name of love.

*Reference: page 181*

**Claim:** 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.

*Reference: pages 179, 183*