

Love?  
D Y L?

A question, responded to with a similar question.  
Like the game of tennis,  
in which every game starts with the score  
at Love-Love.

Or a heartbeat, for that matter.  
Which might sound creepy (or utterly terrifying) to a fetus,  
making it reluctant to come out of its den of comfort.  
Do you remember?  
Can you *imagine*?

“Late last night and the night before,  
Tommyknockers, Tommyknockers,  
Knockin’ on my door.  
I want to come out, But I don’t know if I can,  
Because I’m so afraid of the Tommyknocker man.”  
from *The Tommknockers*  
a novel by Stephen King

Everything was going smoothly during the birth of my son, my first child, until it suddenly wasn’t. His mom was pushing (I was incredibly impressed with her courage and stamina during the whole process, it was a long labor), and he had started to emerge. The room was calm. Soothing music was playing. The process was being managed skillfully by a doula. The top of my son’s head was visible. Like a (very bloody, slightly hairy) stone. But then they put a little thingy on his head and determined he was slightly feverish, and his little heartbeat was a bit too fast. Suddenly, in like five seconds, or so it seemed, the room was filled with people. A lot of people. I was nudged into a corner, helpless, as a doctor got out the obstetrical forceps, or “labor pincers” as they are sometimes called, and extracted the divine payload. Successfully, as it turned out. He was fine. Totally fine. He had just gotten a bit worn out and stressed from the long labor. But it was scary. Really scary. There was a lot at stake in those few moments. *Everything* was at stake in those moments. I wanted to share that experience. Among other things. Other moments, when everything was at stake, that did not end the same happy way. Not for a long, long time, anyway.



“Pincers”  
from the film *Arrival*

When they were young, I would make pincers with my hands and fingers and open them, close them, open them, providing accompanying verbal, suspenseful music like the theme to the movie *Jaws*, as I tucked my kids into bed. They would shriek and giggle with a mixture of terror and delight. I didn’t realize why I did it for a long time. I was reliving those moments in the hospital and telling them, every time I did it: I am so fucking glad you made it out, baby. I am so very, very happy that you exist.




“Dennis”

is a word that is almost the word “Tennis.”  
It rhymes with “tennis.”  
But it’s just *a bit* different.

Just as table tennis is about as different from tennis  
as the letter D is from the letter T<sup>1</sup>.

“Dennis” is also a personal name,  
alluding to the Greek god Dionysus,  
the god of wine (blood), fertility, and revelry (joy).

### **Headline: Victory over Death!**



“Popular opinion holds that the last person to have perished in the traditional sense in the United States of America was a 74-year old man named Dennis Colvin, who suffered a heart  attack in his home in Tallahassee, Florida, and was declared dead, yes, dead, *gloriously* dead by doctors in the *emergency room* to which he was conveyed in an ambulance.”


“you then asia”

“Where your treasure is, there your heart  will be also.”

Jesus Christ (who was euthanized, in a sense)

Matthew 6:21

“The transitive property in mathematics, particularly in geometry and algebra, states that if two things are equal to the same thing, then they are equal to each other. In simpler terms, if  $A = B$  and  $B = C$ , then  $A = C$ . This property also applies to inequalities, where if   $> B$  and  $B > C$ , then   $> C$ .”

“Where your  is, there your treasure will be, too.”

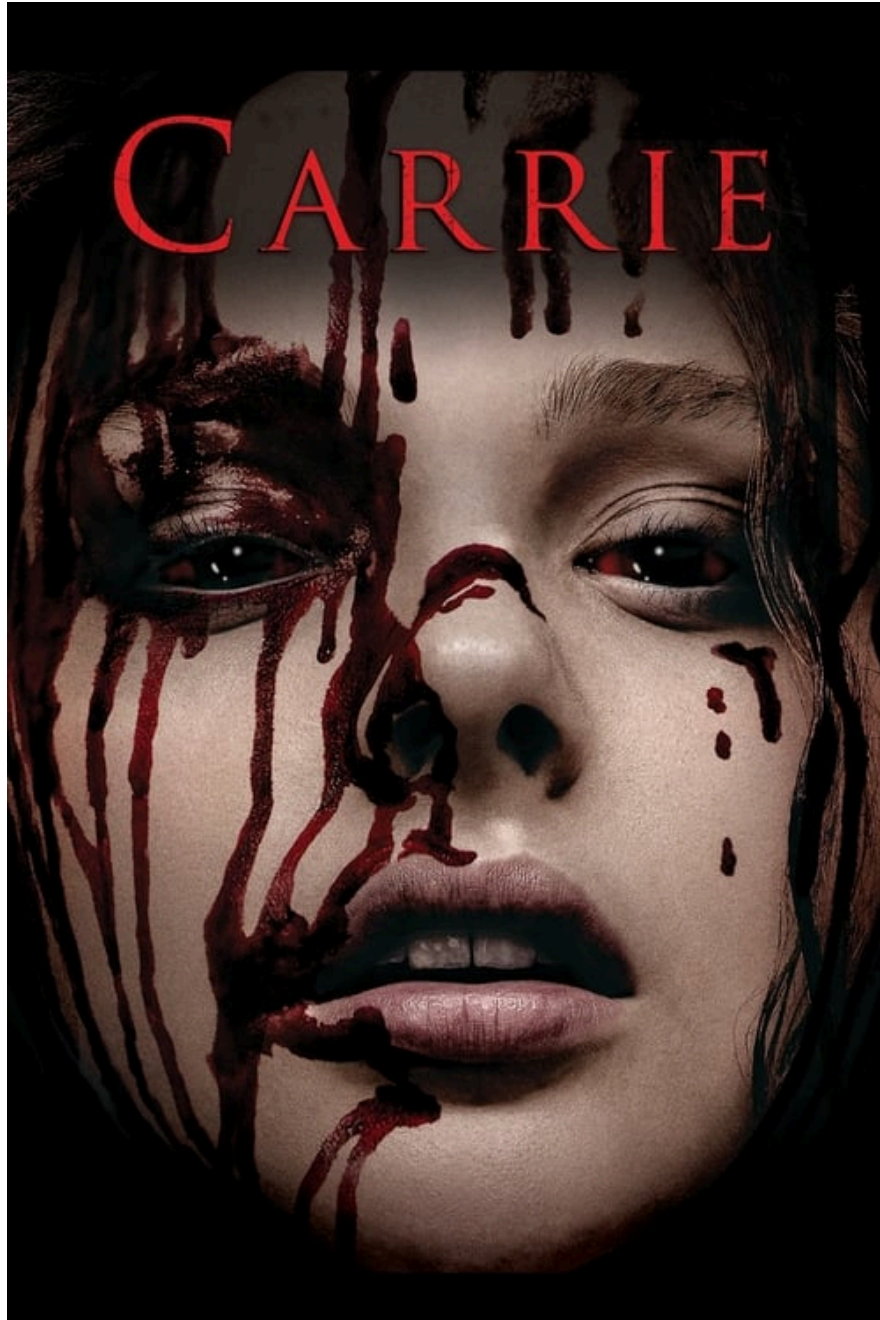
The result of applying the transitive property to the words of Jesus

6/21

often the first day of Spring

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<sup>1</sup> Not to be confused with the word, “tea.”



Stephen King's first novel was *Carrie*.

Like a first child.

He also wrote a short story prior to its publication, which was entitled "Strawberry Spring" (which can be found on the internet). My short story "Better" could be an origin story/prequel for Springheel Jack, the 'Jack the Ripper' style killer in King's tale. We hear the narrator of "Better" confess to certain things. But riddle me this, Attentive Reader.

What do we know about his brother, *Sean*? It's *always* the quiet ones.

Coming *Soon*

“I will open my mouth in parables;.   
 I will utter what has been hidden   
 since the foundation of the world.”

Mark 4:34

Again

with

you then asia  
A Song of Pongs

or maybe

youth in asia  
Of Sean and Wrongs

Or both  
Or something else entirely

We'll have to wait and see, I suppose.

You know what they say.

“Another word for God is surprise.”