

What Happened to Charlotte

Y	a miscarriage	The paths of mother and daughter diverge after a period of perfect union. There is a cord.
	a question	“Is Heaven Closed?” as she falls, confused, like Lucifer did, from Heaven. Why? An Angel. 🙇
O	a womb	The Kingdom in which my unborn daughter sipped her mother’s lukewarm tea.
	a toilet bowl	The lukewarm lake into which she dropped.
U	a water pipe	Where flushed things go. The shape of James’ bungee jump.
	a female lamb	“Ewe.” Also “eww.” As in bloody and gross.

“This is what the Lord says:  
‘A voice is heard in Ramah,  
mourning and *great weeping*,  
Rachel *weeping* for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”

Jeremiah 31:15<sup>1</sup>



raChels River<sup>2</sup>

a flood of tears as I took in what floated in the lukewarm toilet water

“euthanasia”

controversial. like abortions. with miscarriages, though, we let God off the hook.

“youth in asia”

The Tianenmen Square Student Uprising in Beijing, China in 1989 ended in an sudden explosion of violence and death.

“Tianenmen” means “Gates of Heavenly Peace.”

*Sleep in heavenly peace, darling.*

“When he was very (very) angry, my Dad sang Christmas songs.”

<sup>1</sup> This verse is also quoted in the gospel of Matthew in reference to Herod’s massacre of the innocents, which involved killing every boy under the age of two years old in an effort to kill Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> The Charles River is in Boston.

# ASIA

“There’s a hole in my heart  
that goes all the way to China.  
I gotta fill it up with love  
before I fall inside-o’  
This empty hole in my heart  
that goes all the way to China”  
Cindi Lauper

My daughter’s gender was not known  
at the time of her miscarriage.  
She was too young.  
The Korean flag is evocative of gender diversity.



Blue for boy. Red and white make pink for girl.

The literal meaning of the Chinese word for Korea is “Lofty Beauty.”  
Miss Carrie was conceived in a bed over which loomed a loft,  
which was my writing space for a while. Like a brain. Or a mind.

The Kingdom of Heaven. Where She belonged.

# THEN

“The End”

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to  
make an end is to make a beginning.

The end is where we start from".

T.S. Eliot, “Little Giddings”

“The end is in the beginning and yet YOU go on.”

Samuel Beckett

“My baby’s ending was Her beginning,  
and yet I go on. How?”<sup>3</sup>

Charles Wolfgang Keane Tuomi<sup>4</sup>

“Begin with the end in mind.”

Stephen Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

end

noun

a goal or result that one seeks to achieve

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people.  
Amen.”

Revelation 22:21

The final verse of the Bible

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<sup>3</sup> Viktor Frankl wrote *Man’s Search for Meaning*

<sup>4</sup> “Samantha” Beckons

# “Joanie”

Joan Osborne

from the music video for the song, “St. Teresa”  
the miracle of Loves and Wishes



“She Watches the Man”

“My god, my god, why have you forsaken me?.”<sup>5</sup>



“In that measureless span of time, he is close enough to feel the river's icy spray on his cheeks, mere inches from Kim's face in the water below. Reaching out for her, he feels the river swallow his finger tips. She stretches her hand toward his.

It is as if she is his reflection. His better half.”

“When he had perceived the (lukewarm) drink, Jesus said, ‘It is Finnish.’”<sup>6</sup>



“I Hope He Likes It”

He sure did, Miss Carrie. He most certainly did.  
And “with that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Jesus' lament on the cross. Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:34. Just imagine.

<sup>6</sup> Also something Jesus says on the cross. Sort of. John 19:30.

<sup>7</sup> John 19:30

J	O	A	N	I	E	
10	15	1	14	9	5	54

C	A	R	R	I	E	
3	1	18	18	9	5	54

“Jesus Christ.”

Lila is the Hindu idea that the universe is a game played by God children.  
The Shattering of the Vessels in Lurianic Kabbala tells of vials of light that are broken, and the task of re-uniting that light.

Like a game of hide and seek. Or forget and find, maybe.  
Lose the love-centered child we once were. Become burdened adults. But never stop seeking.  
And finally, the joy of re-discovering her, like the Prodigal Son.  
Carrie is the feminine form of the name, Charles. Both of which mean “free man.”

S	E	A	R	C	H	
19	5	1	18	3	8	54

L	O	V	E	
10	15	22	14	54

P	L	A	Y	
16	12	1	25	54

“All Life is suffering.”  
Buddha

“Art is the lie that tells us the Truth.”  
Pablo Picasso

“Beauty is a child dressed up as Pain for Halloween.  
And sometimes, if you give Her a treat when she  
comes to your door, She takes off Her mask and  
stays for a while.”

Charles Wolfgang Keane Tuomi  
*Route 26*

“So, there it is: a Life, a Truth, and the Way to make  
the Smile went, go on forever.”  
John 14:6

athanasía<sup>8</sup> (αθανασία):  
Greek  
meaning “immortality”

Any questions?

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<sup>8</sup> “The end is in the beginning.” 😊