



# What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories

By Raymond Carver

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**What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories** By Raymond Carver

In his second collection, including the iconic and much-referenced title story featured in the Academy Award-winning film *Birdman*, Carver establishes his reputation as one of the most celebrated short-story writers in American literature—a haunting meditation on love, loss, and companionship, and finding one's way through the dark.

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## What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories By Raymond Carver Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

"What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" is not only the most well-known short story title of the latter part of the 20th century; it has come to stand for an entire aesthetic, the bare-bones prose style for which Raymond Carver became famous. Perhaps, it could be argued, *too* famous, at least for his fiction's own good. Like those of Hemingway or any other writer similarly loved, imitated, parodied, and reviled, these stories can sometimes produce the sense of reading pastiche. "A man without hands came to the door to sell me a photograph of my house." "That morning she pours Teacher's over my belly and licks it off. That afternoon she tries to jump out the window." "My friend Mel McGinnis was talking. Mel is a cardiologist, and sometimes that gives him the right." What other writer ever produced first sentences like these? They are like doors into Carverworld, where everyone speaks in simple declarative phrases, no one ever stops at one beer, and failure or violence are the true outcomes of the American dream.

Yet these stories bear careful re-reading, like any truly important and enduring work. For one thing, Carver is one of the few writers who can make desperation--cutting your ex-wife's telephone cord in the middle of a conversation, standing on your own roof chunking rocks while a man with no hands takes your picture--deeply *funny*. Then there is the sheer craft that went into their creation. Despite their seeming simplicity, his tales are as artfully constructed as poems--and like poems, the best of them can make your breath catch in your throat. In the title piece, for instance, after the gin has been drunk, after the stories have been told, after the tensions in the room have come to the surface and subsided again, there comes a moment of strange lightness and peace: "I could hear my heart beating. I could hear everyone's heart. I could hear the human noise we sat there making, not one of us moving, not even when the room went dark."

Much of what happens in *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981) happens offstage, and we're left with tragedy's props: booze, instant coffee, furniture from a failed marriage, cigarettes smoked in the middle of the night. This is not merely a matter of technique. Carver leaves out a great deal, but that's only a measure of his characters' vulnerability, the nerve endings his stories lay bare. To say anything more, one feels, would simply hurt too much. --*Mary Park*

#### Review

"Carver's fiction is so spare in manner that it takes a time before one realizes how completely a whole culture and a whole moral condition is represented by even the most seemingly slight sketch. This second volume of stories is clearly the work of a full-grown master." —Frank Kermode

"Raymond Carver's America is...clouded by pain and the loss of dreams, but it is not as fragile as it looks. It is a place of survivors and a place of stories.... [Carver] has done what many of the most gifted writers fail to do: He has invented a country of his own, like no other except that very world, as Wordsworth said, which is the world to all of us." —Michael Wood, front page, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Splendid.... The collection as a whole, unlike most, begins to grow and resonate in a wonderful cumulative effect." —Tim O'Brien, *Chicago Tribune Book World*

"Carver not only enchants, he convinces." —J.D. Reed, *Time*

From the Inside Flap

In his second collection of stories, as in his first, Carver's characters are peripheral people--people without education, insight or prospects, people too unimaginative to even give up. Carver celebrates these men and women.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michelle Johnson:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories book is readable simply by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer regarding What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories content conveys the thought easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different such as it. So , do you continue to thinking What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

#### **Denise Rutledge:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

#### **Ann Foley:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

#### **Carmine Caulfield:**

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