

**THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY** by Raymond Carver

Cool summer nights.  
Windows open.  
Lamps burning.  
Fruit in the bowl.  
And your head on my shoulder.  
These the happiest moments in the day.

Next to the early morning hours,  
of course. And the time  
just before lunch.  
And the afternoon, and  
early evening hours.  
But I do love

these summer nights.  
Even more, I think,  
than those other times.  
The work finished for the day.  
And no one who can reach us now.  
Or ever.