Close your eyes: dream all is well

It's light outside. I have worked all night, and, caught between the transition from darkness to morning, fall asleep in a light-headed trance, a kind of exhaustion at the problem at hand.

All at once, the radio is on. The window, spacious, catches my eye. The music is that of "Are the World," and I switch to another station, but the song remains stuck on the dial again.

At first, I think I've gone crazy. All the sounds and words, the song at the same time. I sit down in the dark and think, I should be an emotional moment, but I just sit there. I hear the song over and over again.

Later, stepping into the shower, I think the water can revive me. I hope the water can restore my sanity.

In Raymond Carver's short story, "So Much Water So Close to Home," a husband is deeply disturbed when she learns that her husband and his friends raped the girl. She realizes that her husband's imaginings are to blame. The narrator is deeply troubled by her fears and imaginations.

Today President Reagan and Soviet Leader Gorbachev will meet for summit talks in Geneva. Their topic will be ending the arms race. I wonder: Can the world face a new era of peace in a broader sense of the word? If so, perhaps this statement reflects an intention on both sides to put the threat of nuclear war out of reach, thereby creating a climate in which the world can pursue a strategy of peace.

But if that is true, then everyone's been forgiven.

We all wish we could save the world, but we've realized that we see it through our own eyes, like a thin, momentary sand.

There is so much water close to home. There is so little in Ethiopia.

When you're hurtling, your hands reach out to a pool and swim in the deep, the heart stops. Fix on your back and relax. You're safe in the mothers' womb.

When you are hurt, you are exonerated, go to a pool and swim in the deep, and the heart stops. Fix on your back and relax. Your heart is beating slowly.

Close your eyes and dream. Dream that everything's all right, that everyone's been forgiven.

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