roaring bones and blood, the rumbling at the door, though some had their arms or paws over their heads – both people and animals, an occasional bird, still more beyond, some of them laughing, some looking away (Mormons, Presbyterians), some blowing their noses and brushing away tears, some of them clasping their hands or paws and softly mewing, shadowy cats, golden-eyed tigers (Marxist atheists, mournful Catholics)… pitiful, empty-headed nothings complaining to be born….(590)

Mickelsson is saved by love. Nothing is more important in life than the celebration of love. To be able to love is to be able to believe in magic, in miracles, in the divine, in the connectedness of things. Love is the biggest miracle one can witness in life. This hunt for love, this hunt for life is what forms the crux of Mickelsson’s Ghosts. Mickelsson survives because he keeps his love alive: “If Mickelsson’s Ghosts is a study in survival, then what Gardner contends is that love is what survives. Love is what pulls Mickelsson through; love is what clarifies the mysteries.”10
Notes

1 John Gardner, *Mickelsson's Ghosts* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982) 5. (Subsequent references will be to this edition.)


3 Morris 208.

4 Morris 209.


7 Butts 17.

8 *Contemporary Literary Criticism* 28:164.


10 Morris 226.