The House of Death

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On the Death of Someone Else

Enkidu, my brother whom I loved, the end of mortality has overtaken him. I wept for him seven days and nights till the worm fastened on him. Because of my brother I am afraid of death; because of my brother I stray through the wilderness. His fate lies heavy upon me. How can I be silent, how can I rest? He is dust and I shall die also and be laid in the earth forever.

Epic of Gilgamesh

O my son Absalom! my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

2 SAMUEL 18:33

My name is Constance, I was Geoffrey's wife,
Young Arthur is my son, and he is lost.
I am not mad, I would to heaven I were!

If I were mad, I should forget my son.

SHAKESPEARE, King John
Part Three title page illustration:
Albrecht Dürer, *St. Jerome in His Cell*; from an engraving of 1514.
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