

*But ev'ry whippoorwill  
Is sellin' me a bill,  
And tellin' me it just ain't so.*

*I could say life is just a bowl of Jello  
And appear more intelligent and smart,  
But I'm stuck like a dope  
With a thing called hope,  
And I can't get it out of my heart!  
Not this heart...*

The pessimistic view, on the other hand, was famously expressed by the British philosopher Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), who asserted that life in a state of nature is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.”

Between those two extreme views, a third seeks a practical via media, as in Anne Nichols's comedy *Abie's Irish Rose*, in which a nice Jewish boy (Abie) falls in love with and marries a Catholic girl (Rose), and boy's Jewish mother tells the couple that if it makes them happy to be happy, then they should be happy.

Whether King's new book will make a reader happy is unpredictable and depends on whether the reader is a cockeyed optimist or a Hobbesian pessimist or an in-between Jewish mother.