

ROLE REVERSAL

She said she used to be a photographer
but she didn't take pictures anymore
since she ended her long-term relationship
and then she said: "My parents got stolen"
and in the moment's silence that followed
my mind catalogued all the other words
that sound like "parents" that she clearly meant
and unable to settle on anything
logical or quench my curiosity
I finally looked up from my book and asked
(not even sure how to frame the question)
"Are your parents all right?" and she said: "What?"
"Your parents. You said your parents were stolen."
(and then as if I were the lunatic)
"My camera. I said my camera was stolen."
And since there were no video cameras
or tape recorders to simply rewind,
I was falling and left to decide with
no tangible evidence but memory
that she was the lunatic, not I.