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.

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