

## Aspects of Strangers

1

They insist that the differences between them are quite superficial (this is frankly absurd). They pray to a doll, or a child. They meditate on the blank. They log on, log off (life expectancy: 72 years). He never knew what he was missing: a historic concert, a new virus.

2

They are uncomfortable with the idea of indeterminacy because it increases their irritability. They have explained their origins, mastered the vast ocean. They hang their paintings upside down (one shows a boat on the horizon, or just below). They are estranged from their statues.

3

They obsess about fluids and history; they believe in something called "blood ties." Yet they know nothing about their ancestors (one owned a tavern, one died at sea on an errand of mercy). Their maps are inaccurate and their money is worthless. Gasoline flows through their systems. No, adrenaline.